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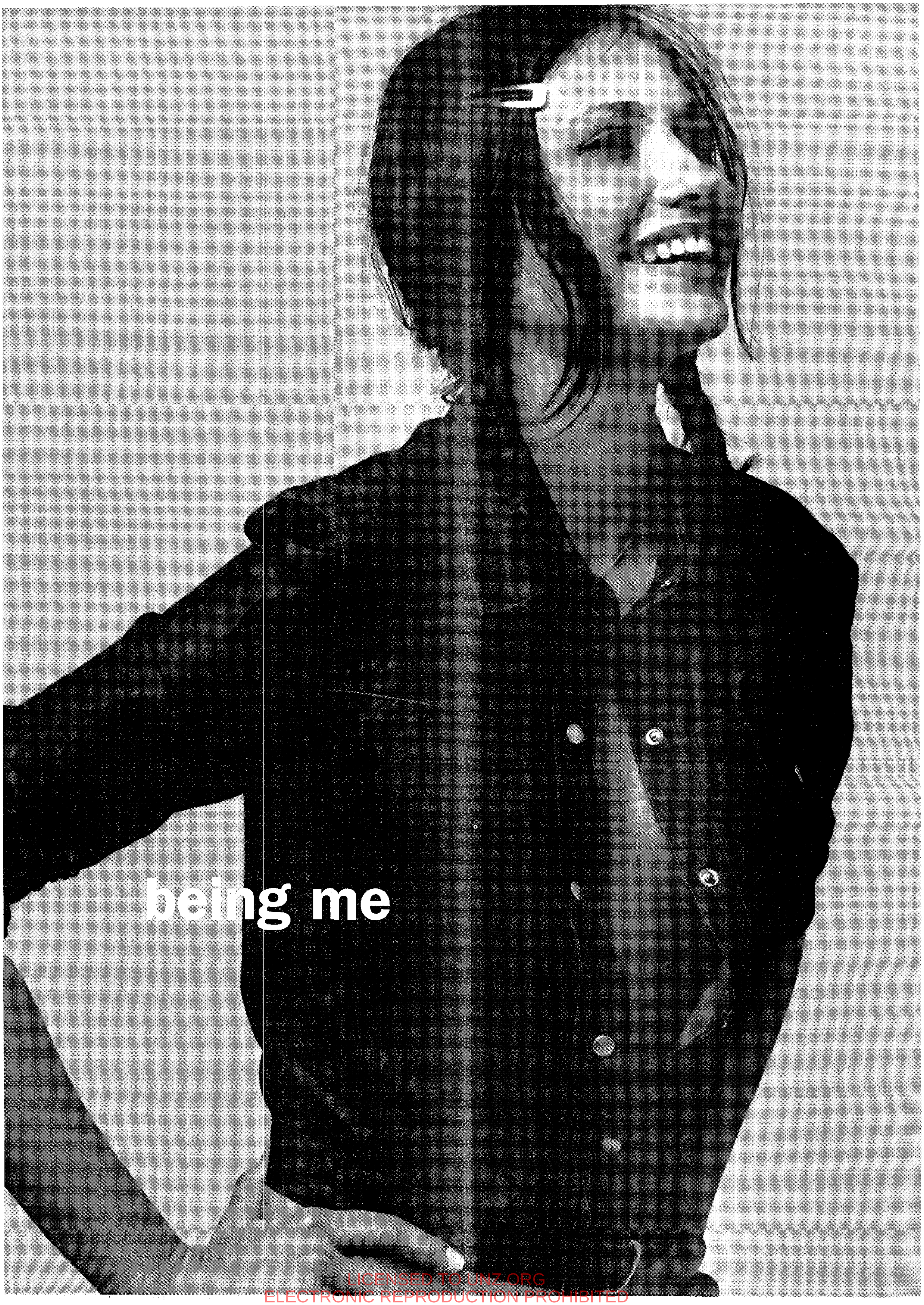
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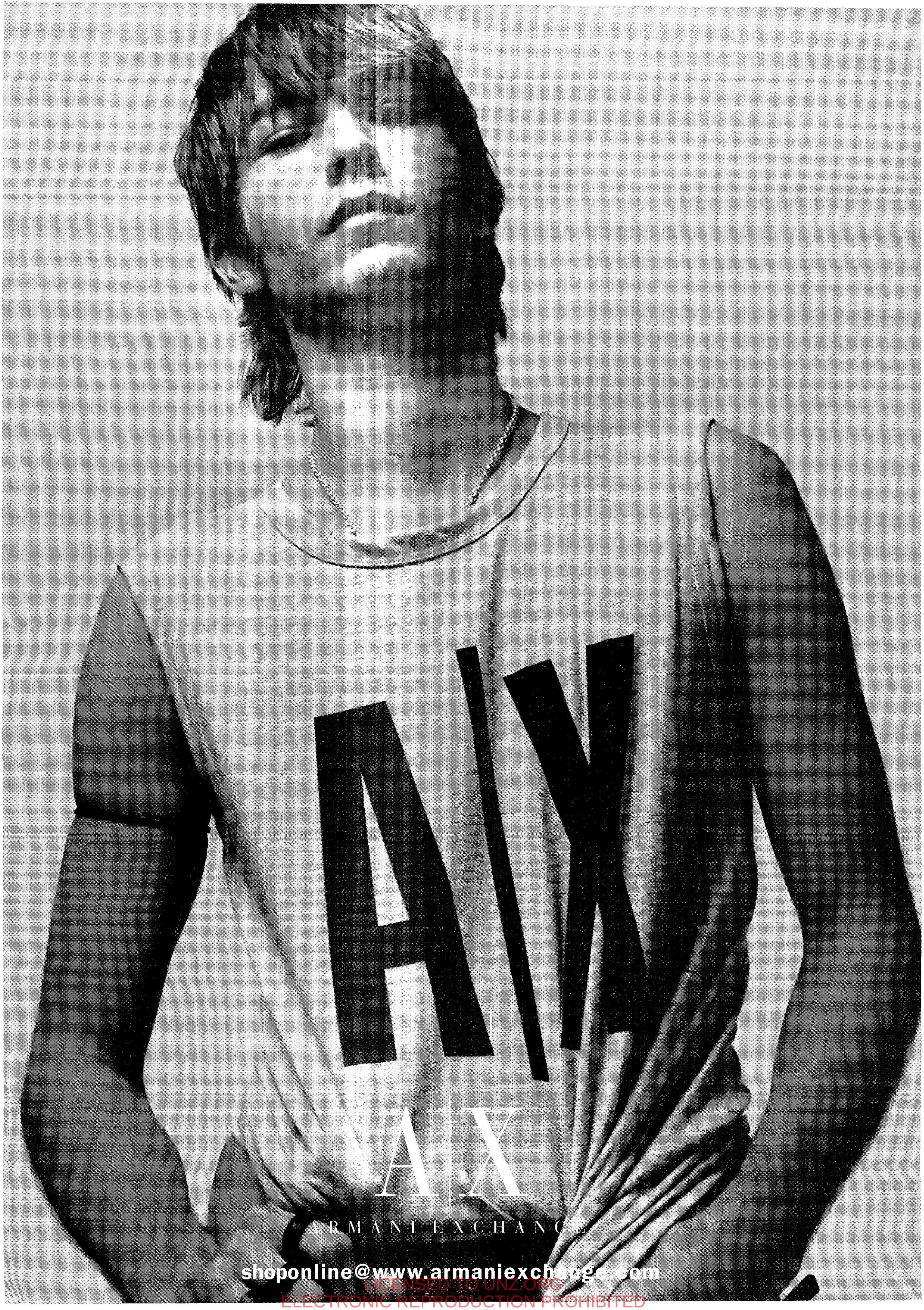
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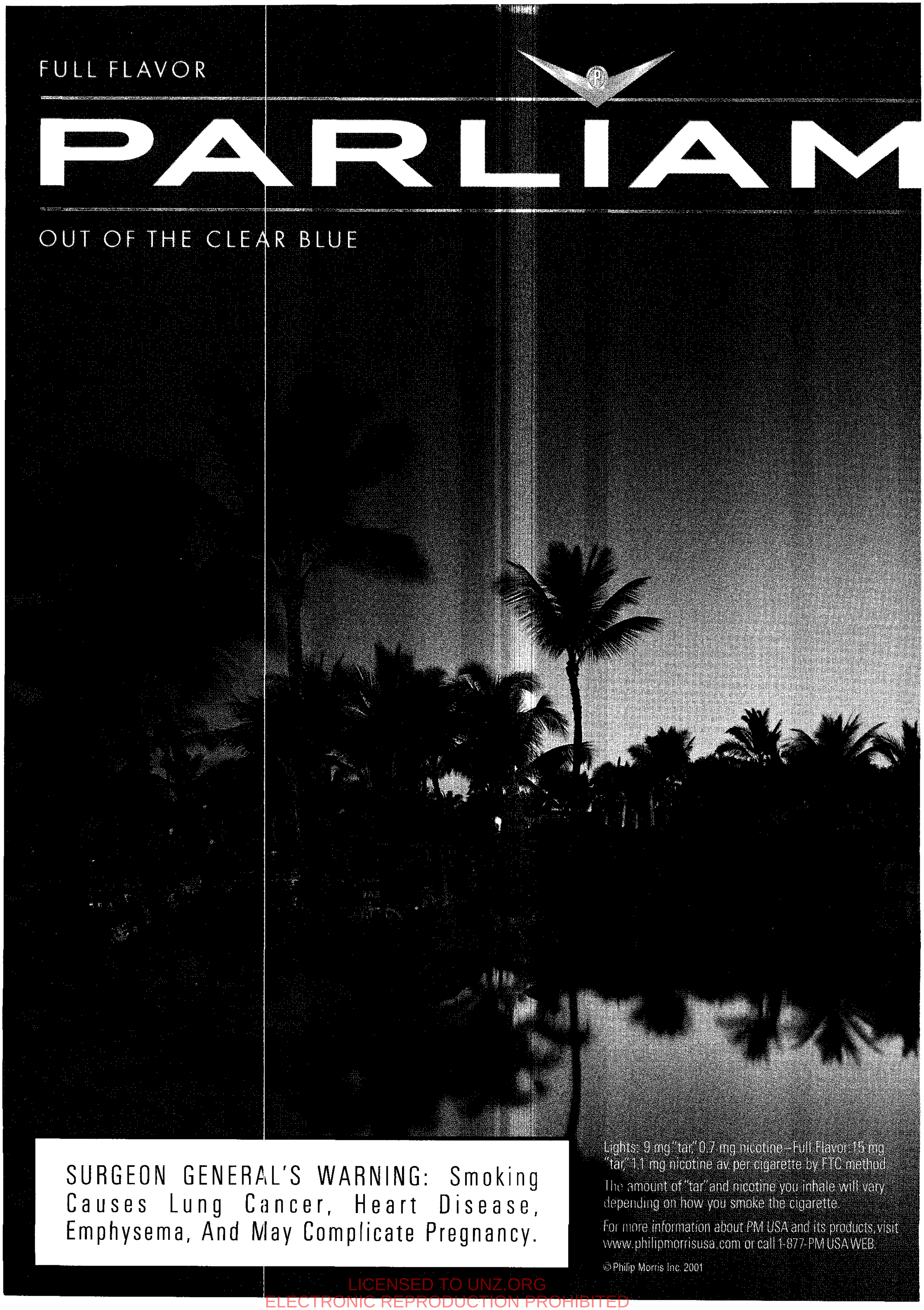

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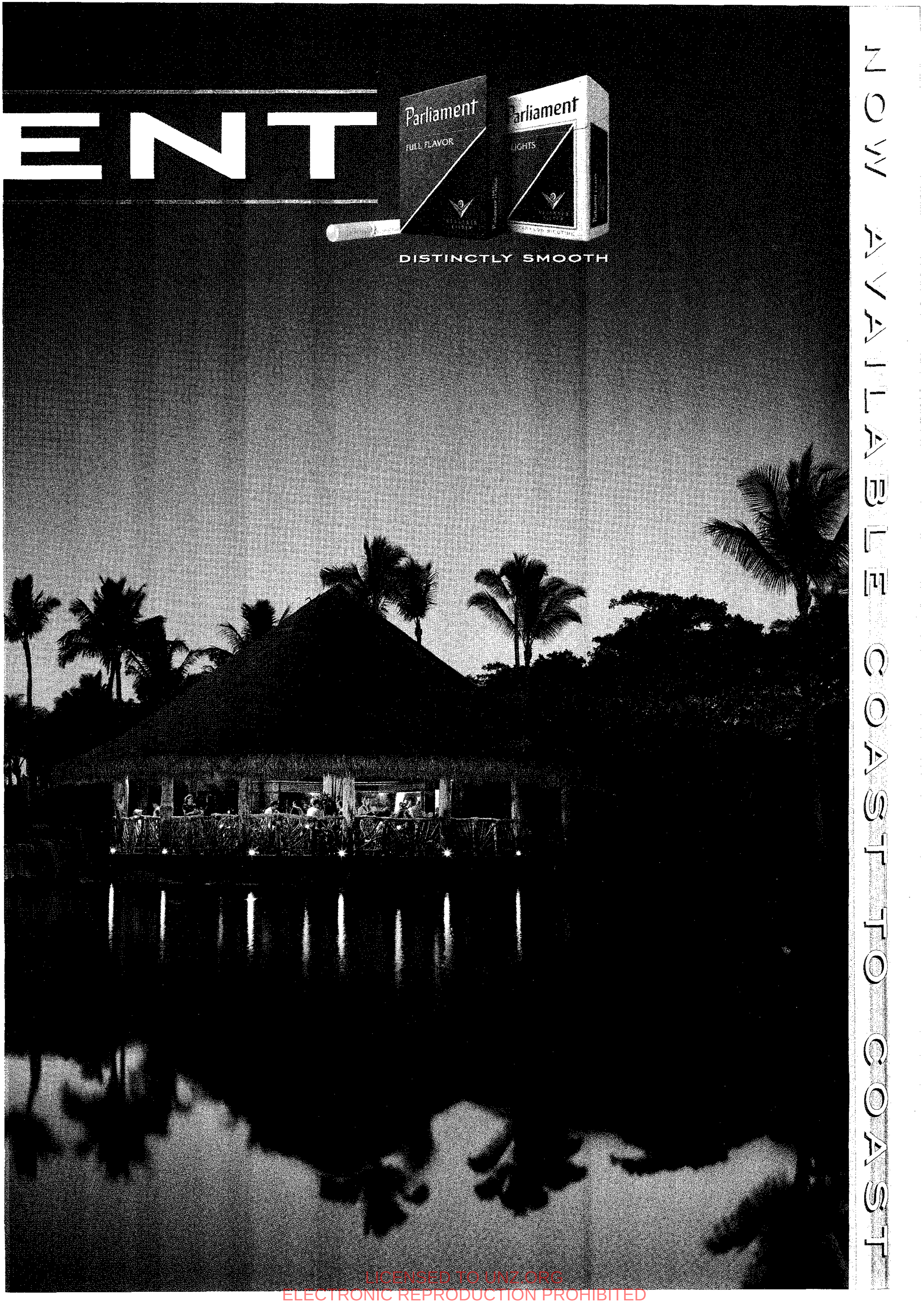
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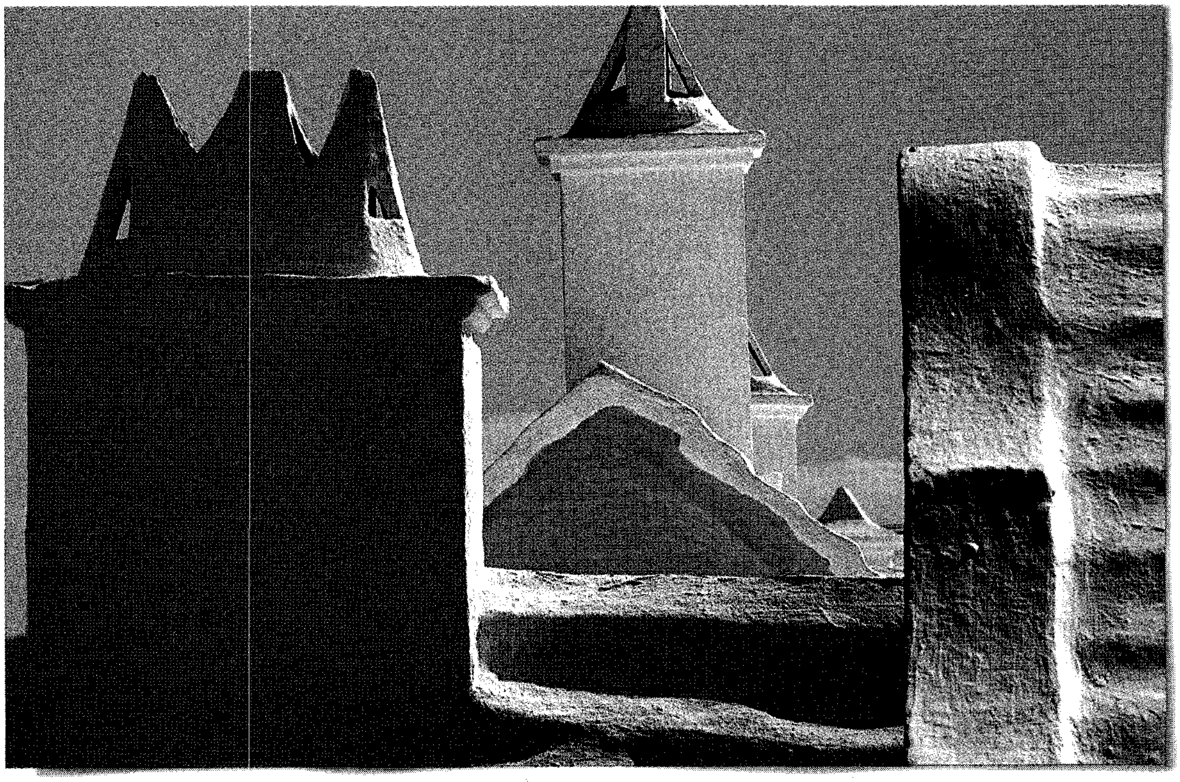

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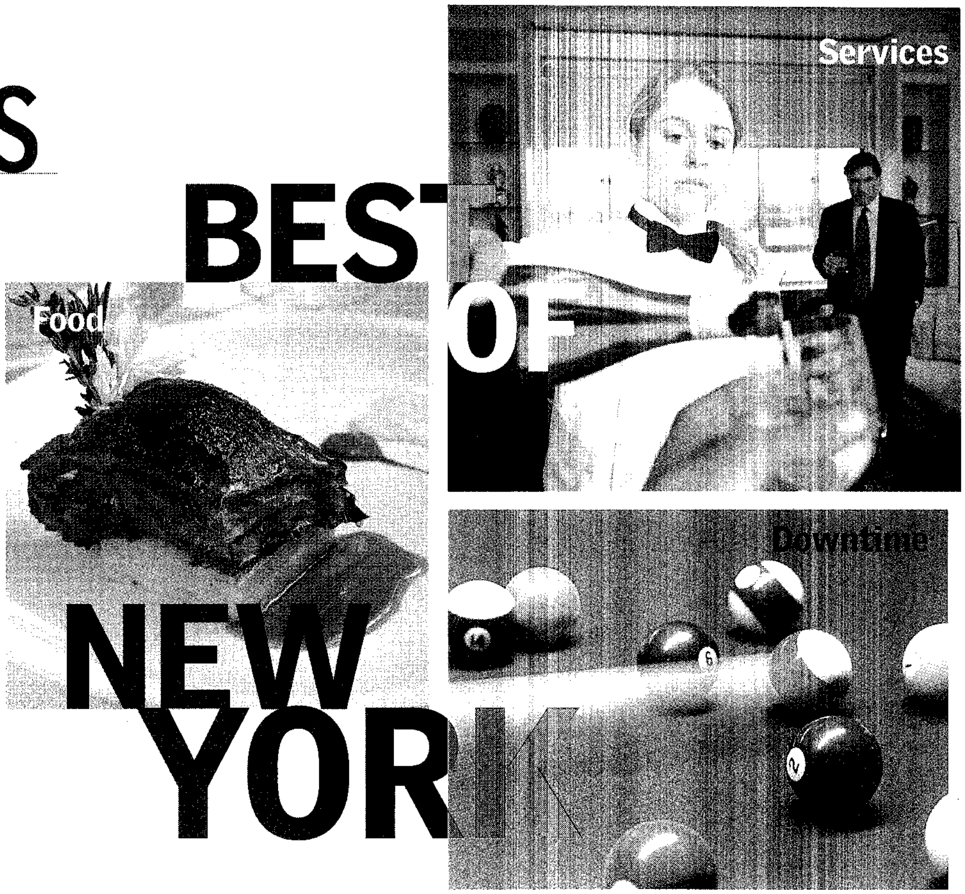

45 No one comes to New York who doesn't want the very best—but who has the time for all that shopping and testing and sampling and comparing? We do, of course. In our annual, highly ritualized, quasi-scientific, much-imitated city survey, we've haggled with housecleaners, critiqued croque monsieurs, house-party-hopped, consumed the city in all its variety. And finally, the winners are in.

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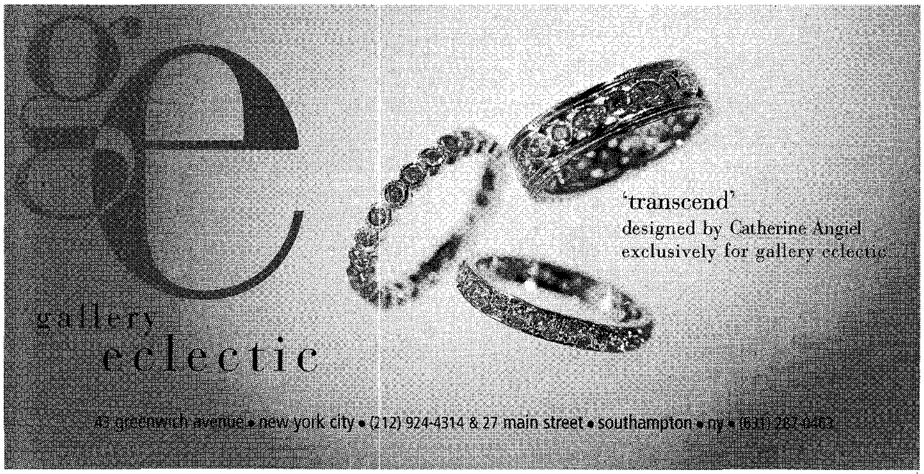

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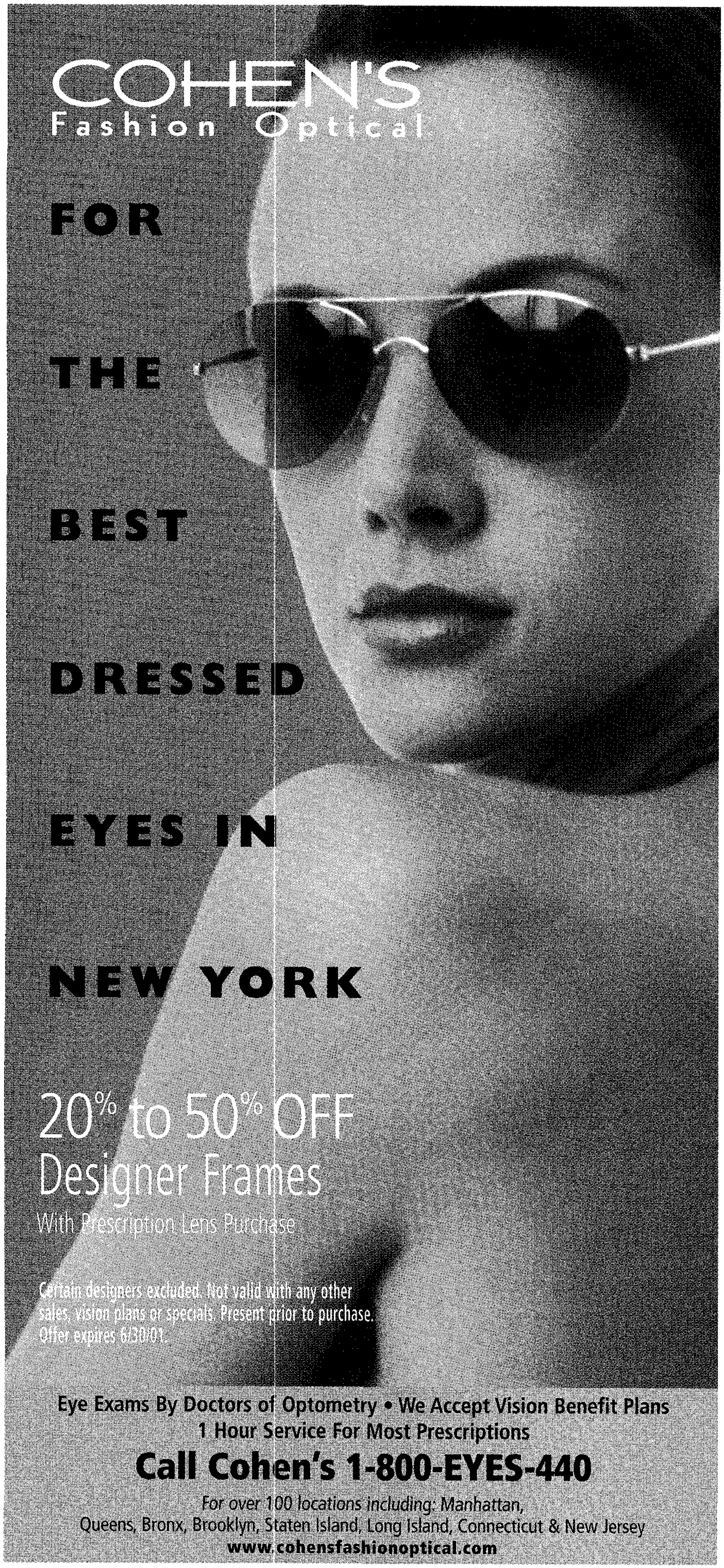
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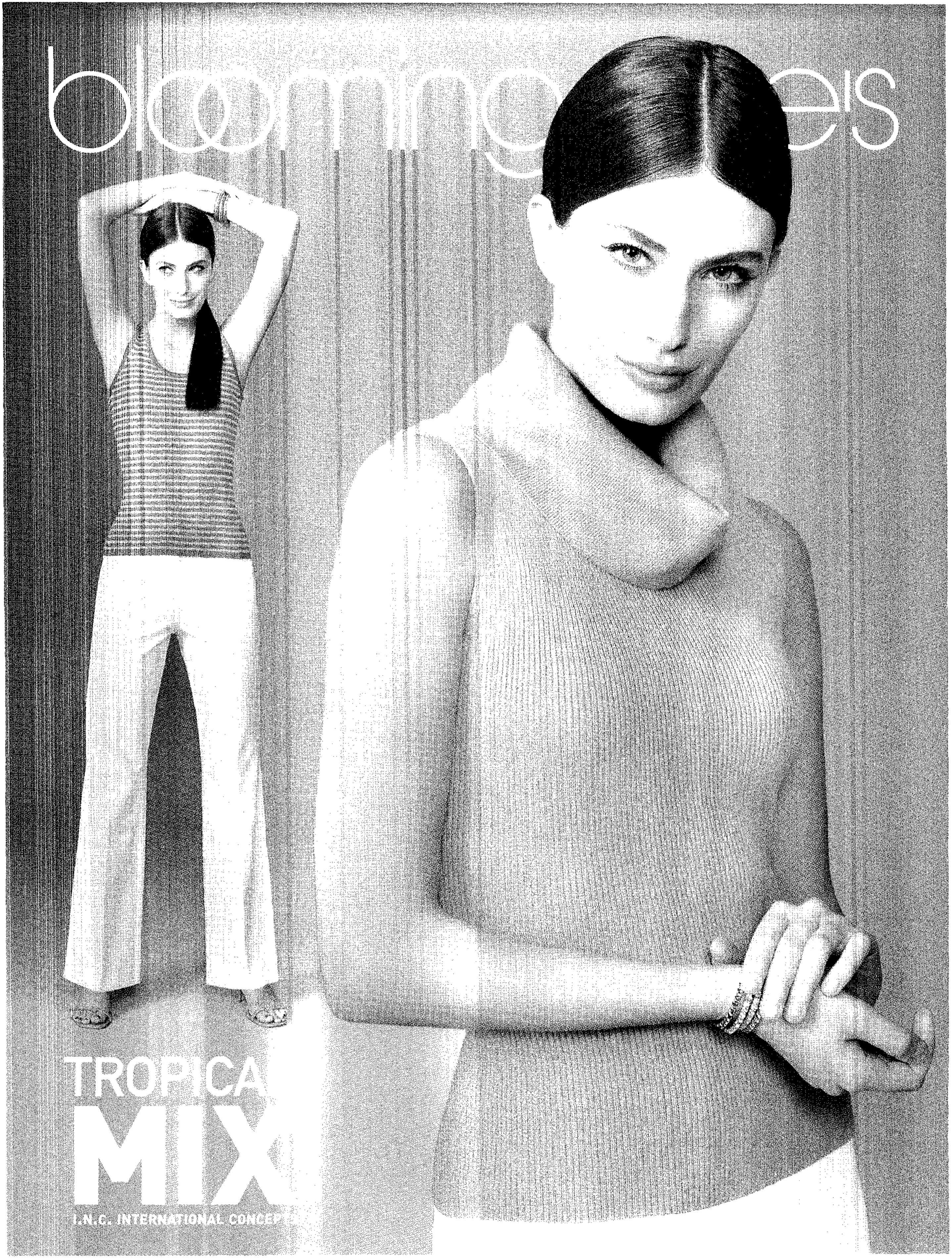
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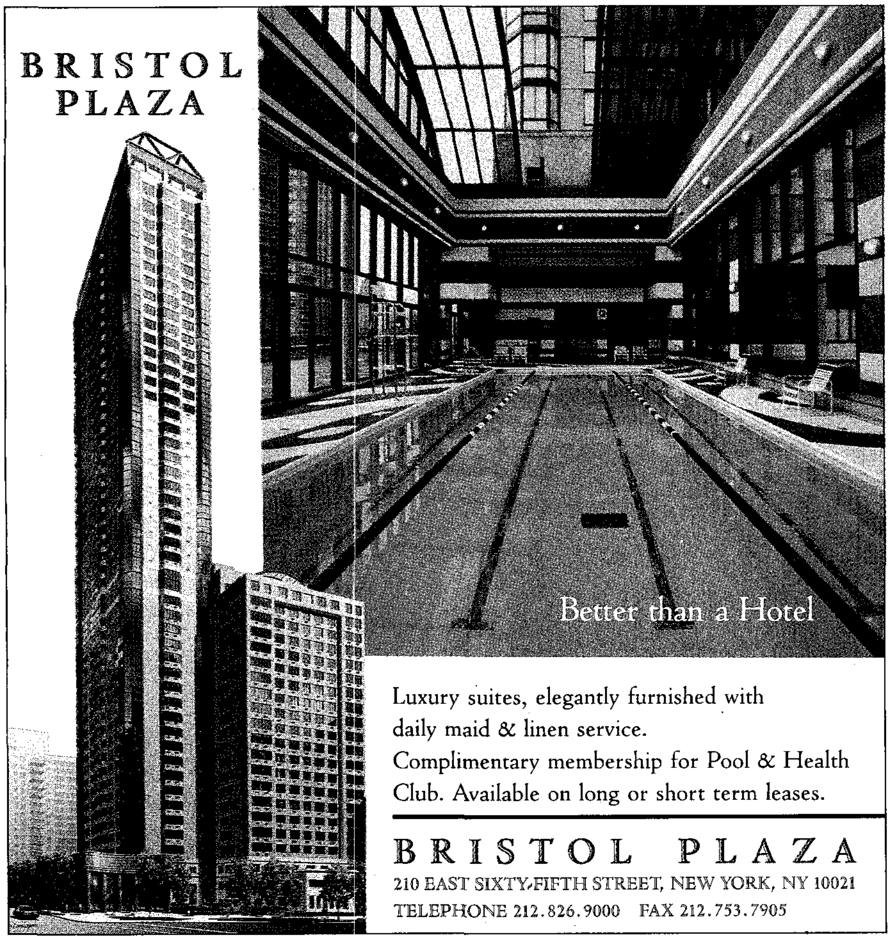

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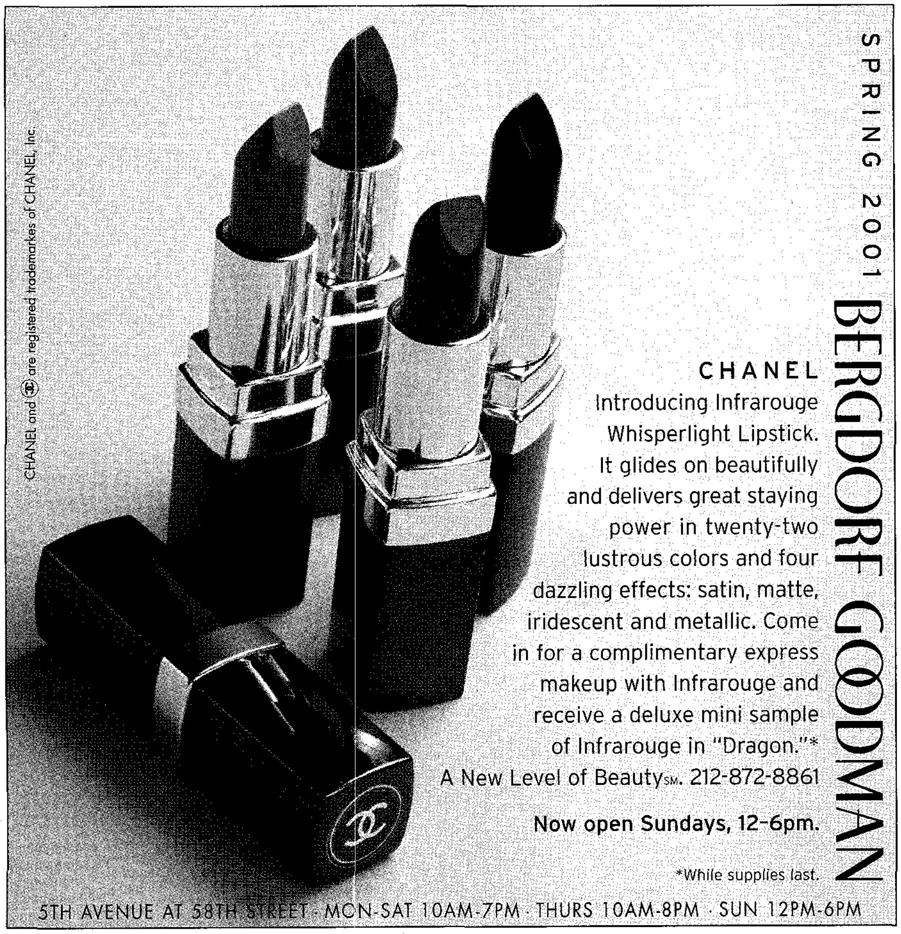

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Letters

> "The men on your 'Macho Makeover' panel are the *real* 'new women'—only bitchier."
> —Kurt Gibson

Certified Male

Your "Male Vanity" cover story was right on target—and timely too ["You're So Vain," by Alex Williams, April 2]. I was talking with some of my buddies just recently about this very subject. As a straight married man with four children, I see the changes in myself in this arena, and in my friends as well. I can't applaud you enough.

Ross Upshaw, HACKENSACK, N.J.

With all the thousands of gorgeous men in the city, why did you choose such a homely one to illustrate your cover story? Did you do it intentionally? Did he give the magazine a kickback? Whatever the reason, shame on you for not doing justice to New York men.

Mary-Jane Dawson, ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Alex Williams, in an otherwise eye-opening article, missed the new frontier of male grooming, which now lies just a few inches below the belt. I've recently seen young-exec types in the locker room of my very mainstream gym on the East Side sporting pubic-hair trims I thought were the exclusive domain of porn stars and Chelsea boys. At least I know who's buying all those "beard trimmers" now that the stubble look is over.

H. Levine, MANHATTAN

Instant Karma

In what would've been a far better feature, these so-called experts would've posed and let the rest of us "bread-eating . . . balls of flesh" judge *them* ["The Macho Makeover," by Ben Kaplan, April 2]. I bet the results would have made more than a few run back to their "eponymous" and "hyperhip" boutiques and just cry their little eyes out.

Greg Glover, BROOKLYN

The men on your "Macho Makeover" panel are the *real* "new women"—only bitchier, cattier, and nastier. On second thought, they aren't the new women at

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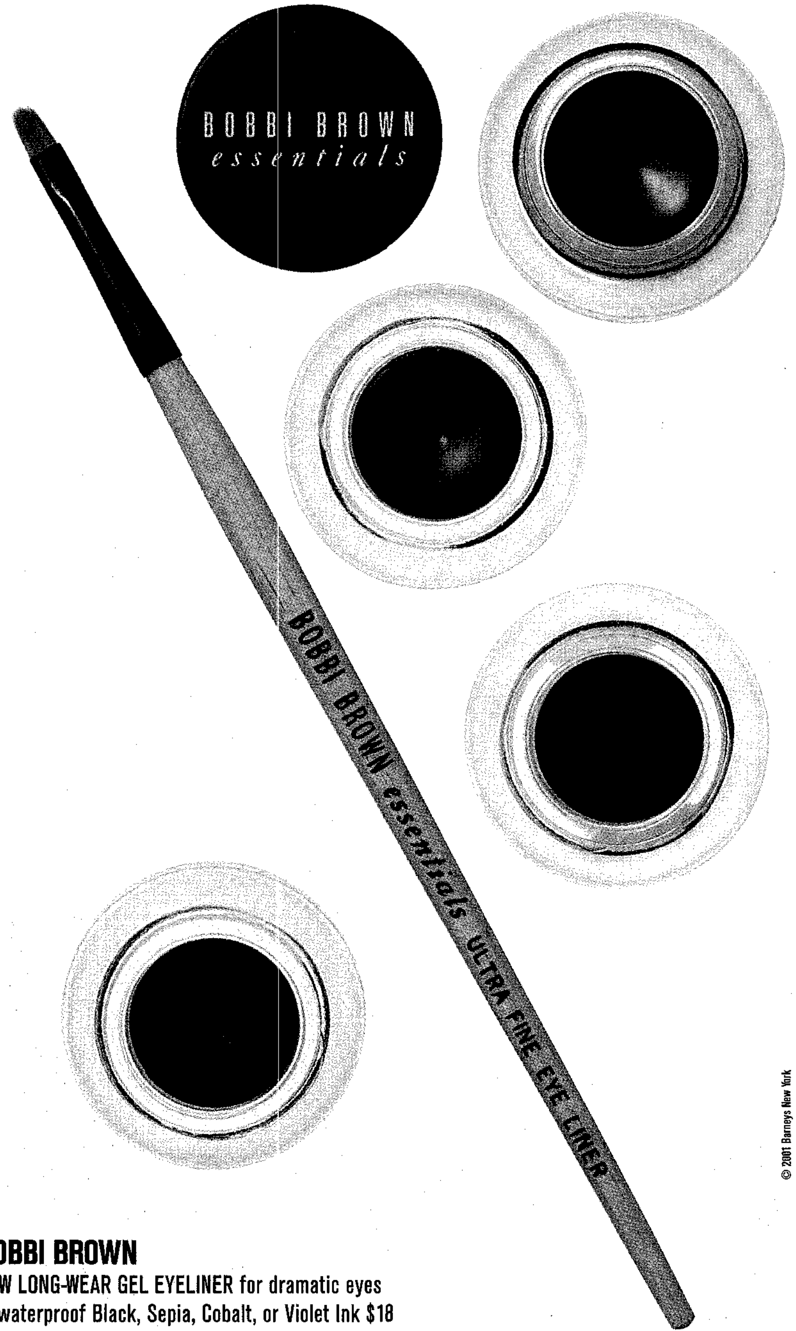

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all—they're caricatures of women. Collectively, they are, perhaps, the most vacuous, embarrassing collection of men ever to grace your pages. It only proves that men can be far meaner than any woman.
Kurt Gibson, MANHATTAN

David Kirsch, one of the panelists for the "Macho Makeover" article, should find another line of work. Anyone who constantly refers to people as "carb faces" has no business being a personal trainer. Personal trainers are supposed to offer motivation, direction, and encouragement—not insults.
Steve Mandresh, MANHATTAN

Doctor's Orders

The April 2 article "The Making of Mr. Right" [by Beth Landman Keil] recommends various procedures to improve the male appearance. Intense pulse light facials are noted to improve fine lines, dark sun spots, spider veins, and rosacea, and the benefits of laser hair removal are also espoused. Unfortunately, *New York* Magazine suggests that these procedures can be safely and effectively performed in spas and other nonmedical facilities. The aforementioned corrective treatments constitute the practice of medicine and should be performed by board-certified physicians who are trained to diagnose and treat skin diseases. Patient safety and successful results are best ensured when treatment is administered by skin-surgery experts or qualified medical personnel under direct medical supervision.
Harold J. Brody, M.D., ATLANTA, GA.
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR DERMATOLOGIC SURGERY

Editor's note: The FDA designates the EpiLight intense pulsed light machine we referred to a "class II device," and in the state of New York, that means an aesthetic but not a medical license is required. The relatively new procedure is performed at both spas and doctor's offices in the city.

Faulty Gadar

Clogs, too gay? In the same league as two earrings, goatees, chin pubes, Tin Tin haircuts, bleached hair, leather pants, and synthetic fur coats? Come on. Clogs are catching on because they are simple and comfortable, and the opposite of excess and effect.
Gary Snyder, MANHATTAN

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It was odd to see, in an issue devoted to male vanity, a sidebar by Glenn O'Brien taking to task "Ten Things That Look Too Gay" [April 2]. Gay men are no strangers to style excess, but there is certainly room for a companion list of things that "look too straight." Think of the fun O'Brien could have with, among other things, pleated khakis, slovenly button-down shirts, patterned cotton sweaters, Hawaiian shirts, Oakley sunglasses, Cole-Haan shoes, messenger bags, back hair—and that's just scratching the surface. Straight is good—but isn't it better when you have to guess a little?

David Colman, MANHATTAN

I read with amusement your April 2 cover story on the "new" male vanity. Imagine my surprise, however, when I came to Glenn O'Brien's "Ten Things That Look Too Gay." As a gay man, I didn't know that looking gay was something I should avoid. And where are you spotting these clog-wearing, spandex-sporting, frosted-haired gay men? I think your stereotypes are a tad outdated. Time to return your copy of *The Boys in the Band* to the video store. It's long overdue.

Alan Stephenson, BROOKLYN

Shadow Warrior

Although most people would like to think Woody Allen's gallant protest of the potential East 91st Street apartment building comes from the goodness of his heart ["Thriller in Carnegie Hill," by Ralph Gardner Jr., April 2], his stance is not entirely selfless. The proposed building would block sunlight in the backyard of his home around the corner on 92nd Street. Allen may want to preserve Carnegie Hill for filming movies, but he's also protecting his investment—something he obviously failed to do when he purchased it in the first place. A little due diligence would have gone a long way.

Steven Sole, MANHATTAN

Gimme Shelter

You consider hanging out at family-owned establishments that have graced Shelter Island for decades "slumming it" ["52 Weekends: Alt.Hampton," by Sarah Bernard, March 26]? Our island has many charms, a few of which you correctly named. But why denigrate establishments that are true

Shelter Island institutions? And why compare Shelter Island's virtues with those of the Hamptons? Is that your only reference point? I hope the next time you visit you'll leave your attitude at the ferry.
Barbara Ludemann, SHELTER ISLAND, N.Y.

For Those About to Walk

It's great to see *New York* suggesting a weekend visit to I. M. Pei's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame ["52 Weekends: Pei and Play," by Jeremy Gerard, March 26]. And any visit to Cleveland would be incomplete without stops at the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Cleveland Orchestra. However, only those New Yorkers who think Columbia is near NYU will find the CMA and the orchestra "within walking distance" of the the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, which is around East 9th Street; the CMA and Severance Hall are located near East 115th St. Drive. Take a cab, take the Rapid—but don't walk it!
Ian S. Haberman, MEDINA, OHIO

Paul Revered

Although Paul Krugman is a notoriously gruff voice among economists, many would agree that he has made potentially Nobel Prize–caliber contributions to the field of economics ["This Media Life: Leading Indicator," by Michael Wolff, April 2]. While I don't imagine he resents his rising celebrity, I have the impression that he regards it as his duty to publicly dispel the misconceptions expounded by "pop economists." Although it may appear that his op-ed column has nothing to do with math, as a student of economics I assure you that there are quantitative models underlying his commentary.
Rebecca Mazza, CHAPPAQUA, N.Y.

CORRECTION In the March 5 issue, David Sloan was mistakenly credited as the creator of *20/20 Downtown*. Victor Neufeld was the show's creator. ■

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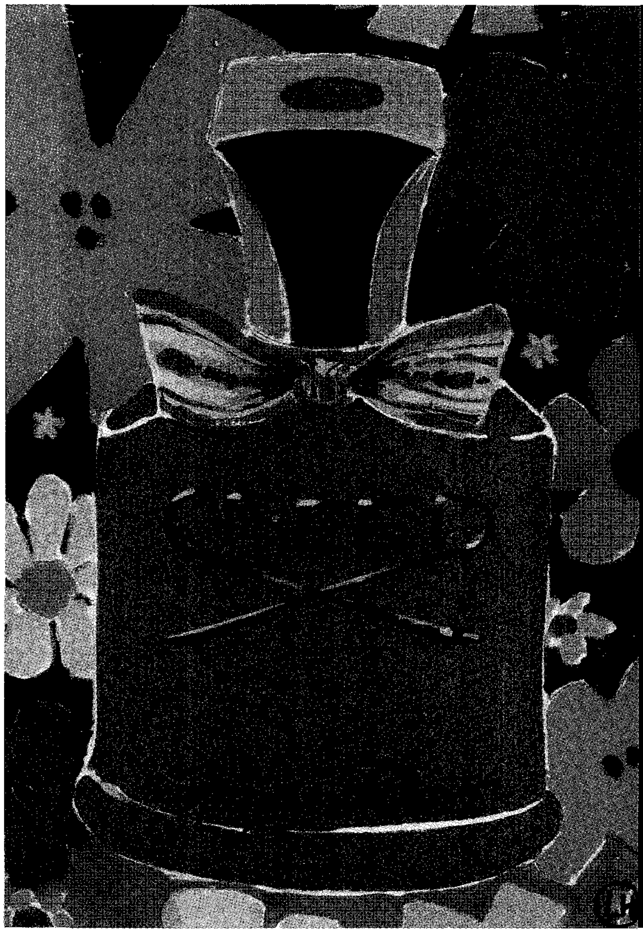

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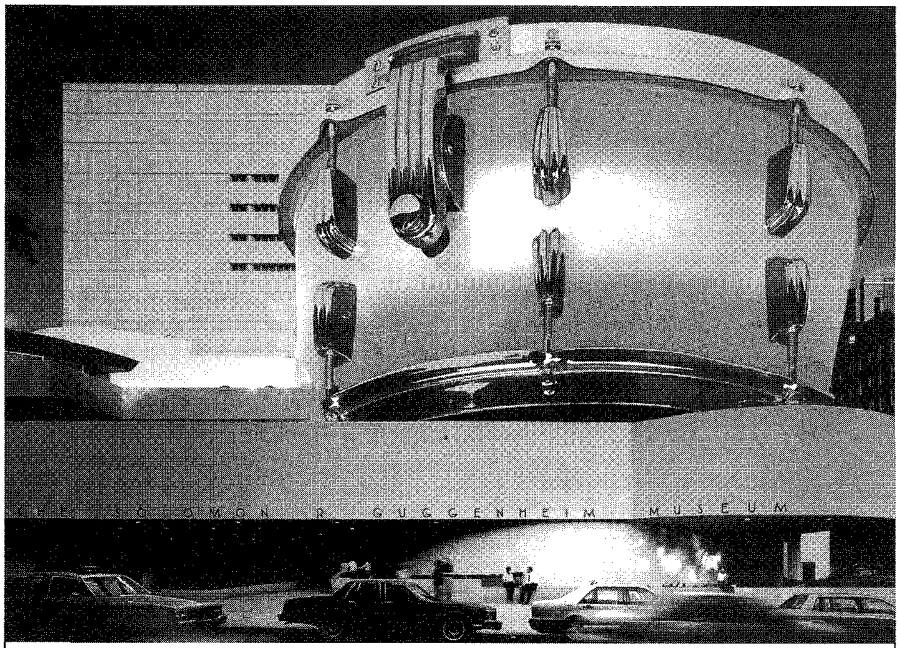

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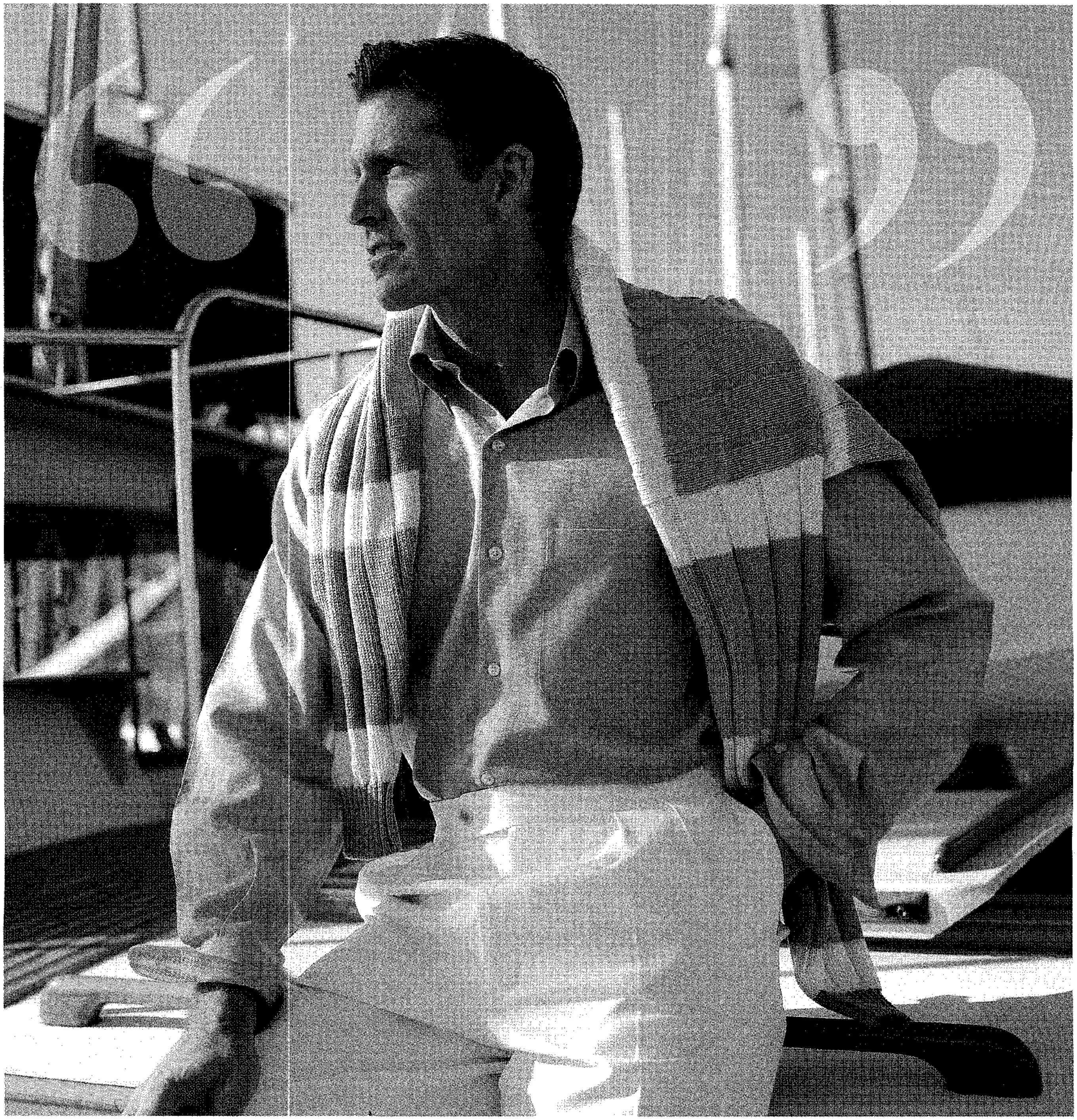

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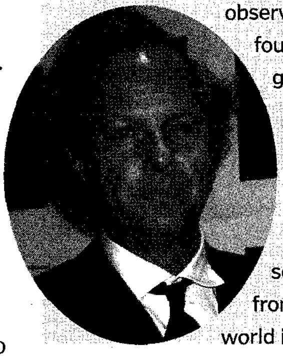
Intelligencer

By Beth Landman Keil and Ian Spiegelman

Sophie Can't Get No Satisfaction—But She Tries

Supermodel **Sophie Dahl** has been wasting no time since her breakup with director **Griffin Dunne**. It seems the voluptuous Brit has been eyeing two of the cognoscenti's most sought-after males: **Mick Jagger** and *Vanity Fair* honcho **Graydon Carter**. According to our nightcrawling sources, the leggy blonde was lip-locked with the lascivious rocker on a recent night at a trendy boîte. "They were making out right at the table," says an observer. "It was quite a scene." During that same week, another source reports, Dahl found herself on the town with the erudite editor-in-chief. "They arrived with a small group, and I saw them hanging out together," says our spy. "But Graydon left with **Brian McNally**." The Dahl-Carter connection may have formed as early as March, when the pair was spotted at *Vanity Fair's* annual Oscar blowout, where Carter boogied with Dahl and she barely left his side. While a rep for the editor declined to comment, all this tongue-wagging about his dating life may be something Carter simply has to get used to now that he's split from his wife of eighteen years. "It's just amazing," says one fashion-world insider. "Right now, *all* of these women are after Graydon."



The Ghost of Rudy Giuliani

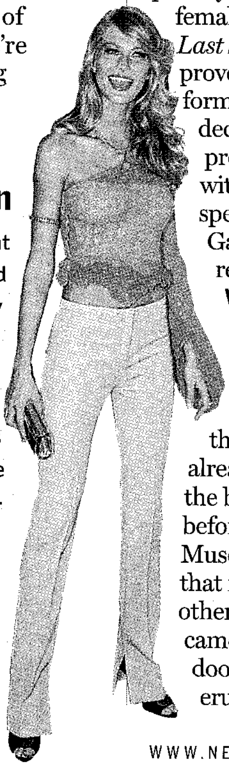
While we don't know whether **Rudy Giuliani**'s upcoming autobiography will detail his extramarital affair with **Judith Nathan**, we do have a good idea who'll be writing it for him. **William Novak**, the high-octane ghostwriter behind the autobiographies of **Nancy Reagan** and **Lee Iacocca**, is in negotiations with **Tina Brown**'s Talk/Miramax Books to help Hizzoner pen his own life story. As far as finding an editor for what is sure to be a free-wheeling joyride through paradise, the company is in talks with Brown's own hubby, **Harry Evans**, to oversee Rudy's tome. Now can we talk about who's going to deal with his comb-over in the author photo?

Gwyn and Madonna: Space Hogs

Some yoga enthusiasts are having trouble getting their *shanti* at SoHo's Patanjali Yoga Shala, where we hear **Madonna** and **Gwyneth Paltrow** have been breathing heavily for months. Although one employee we spoke with insists she's never even seen the duo, regulars at the yoga space report that the bosom buddies have been enjoying a disproportionate share of attention from the teachers. Naturally, those left out of the spotlight are none too happy. "Everybody needs their positions adjusted," says one frequent body twister, "and it's disconcerting to see the instructors fawning over the celebs." Ah, the bitterness of being ignored. We're sure it's something **Carlos Leon** can relate to.

Topless Mama Makes It Big

If you want to live large in the art world, try pissing off **Rudy Giuliani**. We hear photographer **Renée Cox**—whose self-portrayal as a nude black female Jesus in *Yo Mama's Last Supper* helped provoke the mayor's formation of his new decency commission—is preparing to sign on with the highly respectable Robert Miller Gallery, which also represents **Bruce Weber, Edward Ruscha**, and the estate of Lee Krasner. A source close to the artist tells us that the gallery had already shown interest in the buxom fan of Christ before the Brooklyn Museum controversy, but that no fewer than five other gallerists suddenly came banging on her door after the scandal erupted, forcing Robert

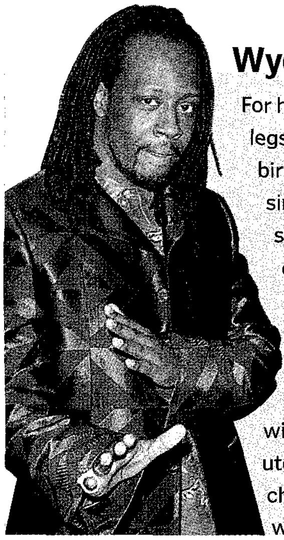


Come Back to the Karaoke, Gisele Bundchen, Gisele Bundchen

Is D.J. **Samantha Ronson** responsible for ruining the sight of a lifetime? Last week at Moomba, several party boys were smacking their lips in anticipation as they watched *Über*-model **Gisele Bundchen** (pictured) preparing to take the mike at the club's weekly karaoke party. But the performance was not to be. After spending nearly an hour excitedly picking out songs from a karaoke book with a fellow mannequin, **Leo DiCaprio**'s best asset suddenly stomped off just minutes before the singing was to commence. According to a witness, Bundchen seemed oblivious to the fact that the karaoke machine never gets switched on before midnight, and the busty Brazilian had grown visibly frustrated as the minutes ticked away. "She was like, 'What's going on? Why isn't it starting?' " says the tipster. When the pouty princess finally got up to leave, one alarmed patron immediately ran over to Ronson, begging her to be reasonable. "Can't you just start it early?" the reveler was heard saying. "You have the hottest woman in the world here wanting to sing, and we want to see it." Oddly unmoved, Ronson responded, "Karaoke starts at midnight." The witness adds that the bombshell passed the time by scarfing down an entire basket of French fries. And we're sure she digested every last one.

Photographs: clockwise from top, Henry McGee/Globe Photos; Rose Hartman/Globe Photos; Robin Platzer/Twin Images; Dave Benett/Globe.

Intelligencer



Wyclef Jean's Standing O

For hip-hop sensation **Wyclef Jean**, a concert's just not a concert until you've got a girl's legs wrapped around your head. Jean's performance was just hitting its peak at the birthday party **Noel Ashman** threw for Arista honcho **Jerry Blair** at Studio 54 when the singer called out, "This is ladies' night!" in order to invite his female fans to join him onstage. After dancing with a bevy of beauties for a few minutes, Wyclef announced, "I only want the baddest chick in the house to stay up here." Only one reveler thought herself bad enough—a petite stunner in skintight jeans and tank top who was soon straddling Jean's waist as he danced. While songstress **Pink**, rapper **Pras**, and the Knicks' **Mark Jackson** and **Allan Houston** looked on, Jean lifted the young woman toward his mouth as she proceeded to embrace his neck with her lower limbs. One witness tells us that Jean "danced with his face between her legs for, like, five full minutes. The crowd went crazy." And Jean apparently had quite an effect on the baddest chick in the house: She was seen in the ladies' room minutes later baring her breasts while she washed her tank top in the sink. Cleanliness is next to godliness.

Miller to make its move. The gallery had no comment, but according to our tipster, Cox's first show in the Chelsea space will be sometime this fall and will portray "a real housewife dealing with erotica in the family." Think she'll pose as **Donna Hanover**?

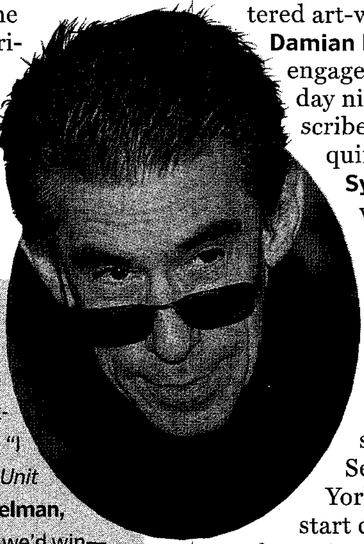
Next: *Baywatch* Does *Proof*

After a steady gig on *Baywatch* and several in-the-flesh appearances in *Playboy*, **Carmen Electra**, it appears, is looking to class-up her career. Electra (born Tara Leigh Patrick) is apparently ready to dazzle the Great White Way, but not with anything *too* out of character: We hear she's up for one of the scantily clad vixen roles in the musical *Chicago* (perhaps the part of Velma recently vacated by **Bebe Neuwirth**?). Acknowledges Electra's rep: "Carmen is in conversations with the show about a part, although we don't know which one." A Broadway insider confirms that the star will be auditioning soon. What, you mean the producers weren't convinced by her music videos?

The Secret Inside a Boxer's Shorts

When **Marco Antonio Barrera** knocked the smug out of **Prince Naseem Hamed** in Las Vegas last week, the gloved one was equipped with a good-luck charm provided by Roc-A-Fella Records honcho **Damon Dash**. Before handing Hamed the first beating of his 35-1 career, Barrera asked Dash to have his Roc-a-Wear clothing line create a special pair of silver-and-navy boxing trunks with the name of his recently deceased mother, Tapia, emblazoned across the back. Dash, meanwhile, is working hard to peddle his influence even further—now the mogul is also a film producer. The tentatively titled *Paid in Full* recently wrapped shooting and will be distributed by Dimension Films. Dash tells us the movie is an eighties period piece inspired by growing up around the likes of notorious Harlem drug kingpin **Albert "Alpo" Martinez**. "They were the big guys in my neighborhood," says Dash. "I remember how everyone used to talk about them and want to be around them." While Dash is "not sure" when Dimension will release his flick, Martinez—who's serving a life sentence for seven murders—will probably have to wait for it to show up on cable.

POWER TIES: Kidada Jones is taking the long road to commitment. The twentysomething daughter of superproducer **Quincy Jones** is engaged . . . to be engaged. A source close to the lovely actress-model tells us she recently received a gold "promise" ring from her boyfriend, **Jeff Nash**, who works at Fred Segal in L.A., with the implication that it would be replaced by an official engagement bauble in the not-too-distant future. Jones's last love came to a tragic end in 1996, when her then-fiancé, Tupac Shakur, was murdered in Las Vegas. . . . In other nuptial news, paint-splattered art-world celeb **Damian Loeb** got engaged last Saturday night to *Vogue* scribe and fellow quirky Brit **Plum Sykes**. The wedding—where you'll undoubtedly find Loeb pal **Moby**'s shiny pate among society's jet set—is on September 8 in Yorkshire, so start currying favor for an invitation now.

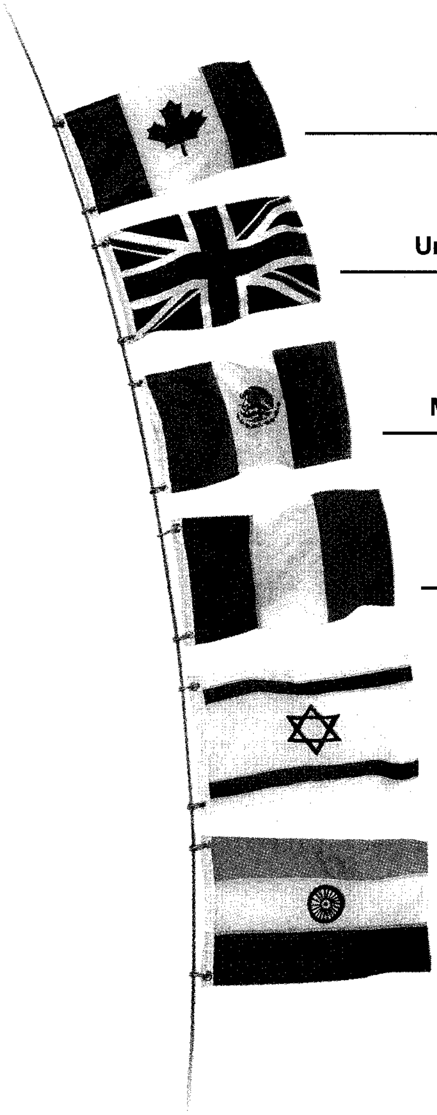


Is This the Luckiest Little Socialite in the World?

Even in times of economic downturn, the famous manage to glom more stuff. Excitable society types found their fragile jaws agape when the winner of an $8,000 diamond line bracelet was announced at *W* magazine's "Women of Style" party at the Hudson Hotel last week. Although dozens of pencil-thin beauties were given raffle tickets upon entering the event, fortune smiled on the prettiest one of all: **Richard Belzer**. "I can assure you that there was no fix," the long-faced *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit* player told us while hostesses **Zoë Cassavetes, Tamara Mellon, China Chow, Jill Kopelman,** and **Kate Driver** amusedly looked on. "But when they told us there was a raffle I knew we'd win—I don't know why." Meanwhile, his wife, **Harlee McBride**, admitted, "A girl can never have enough diamonds," adding that she was long overdue for a windfall. "The last thing I won was a Thanksgiving turkey from my dry cleaner in 1972." Ah, but you did win Belzer, now, didn't you?

Additional reporting by Aric Chen and Seth A. Gladstone.

Photographs: from top, Fitzroy Barrett/Globe Photos; James M. Kelly/Globe Photos.



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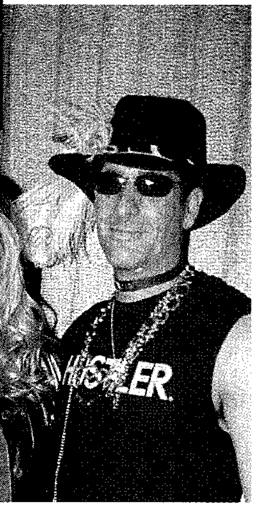
Scene

Leslie Stahl, Don Hewitt, and Toni Goodale at the Museum of Television & Radio for a party in honor of Hewitt and his book, *Tell Me a Story: 50 Years and* 60 Minutes *in Television.*

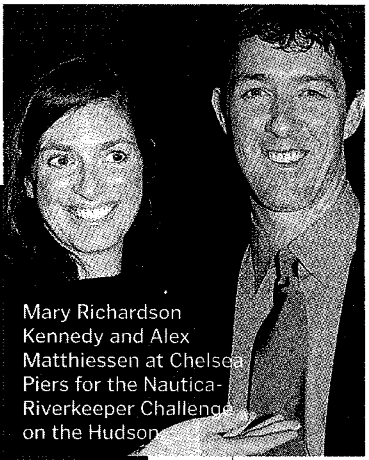
Joel Coen, Helmut Lang, and Frances McDormand at the Metropolitan Pavilion for the Eos Orchestra's gala benefit.


Lara Shriftman and Chris Heinz at Suite 16.

Victoria Leacock and Dominik Moll at Orsay celebrating Moll's new film, *With a Friend Like Harry . . .*

Heidi Klum, Michael J. Fox, and Ric Pipino at the Park, following the New York premiere of *Blow.*

Rena Sindi at Sotheby's for a preview of "The Collection of Gianni Versace."


Mary Richardson Kennedy and Alex Matthiessen at Chelsea Piers for the Nautica-Riverkeeper Challenge on the Hudson.

Kate Spade and Kenneth Jay Lane at La Caravelle for Spade's luncheon welcoming spring.

Art Buchwald and Hannah Pakula at the Metropolitan Club.

Ho and Hollerin'

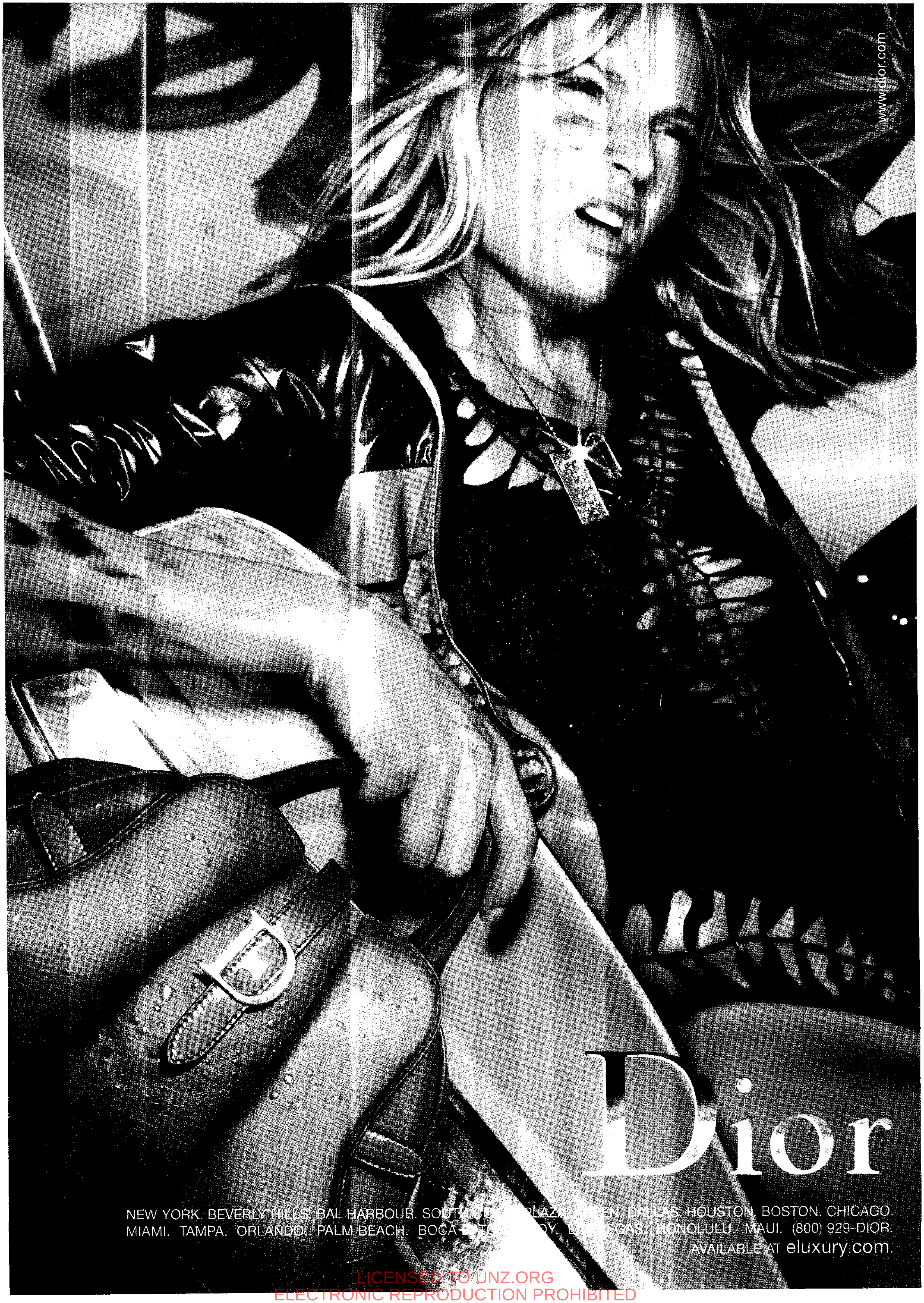
"We're all such pimps and ho's!" said delighted P.R. maven **Lara Shriftman** at her costume-themed birthday party on April 6, which was thrown with friend **Chris Heinz** at Suite 16 in Chelsea. The birthday girl, who went with the "high-price ho" look in a Celine tank top and a $550,000 Harry Winston necklace, got birthday kisses from **Aaliyah, Pia Getty**, and **Griffin Dunne. Shoshanna Lonstein** stopped by and quickly got in deep conversation with **David Spade. Liev Schreiber** didn't come in costume, but he did strip off some layers when the club began to swelter. Perched next to "pimps" **Alex Von Furstenberg** and **Todd Meister**, the **Hilton sisters** were the party's centerpiece "ho's," scantily clad in fur and leather with rhinestone tiaras that elegantly read SLUT.

MORGAN GOLDBERG

Past Tense

"I find the whole idea of writers getting together socially so *bizarre*," remarked **Olivia Goldsmith.** "It's like they're finally coming out of the closet—not sexually, of course." The author was speaking at the Metropolitan Club, where writers like **Scott Turow, Frank McCourt**, and **Sandra Brown** had gathered on a rainy April 9 for the Authors Guild Foundation benefit dinner. "I think writers are actually *too* social," countered a merry **Calvin Trillin.** "They lock themselves up in a little room all day, so by the time night comes around, they'll go to a cat show if it means getting out of the house." DAVID AMSDEN

Photographs by Patrick McMullan



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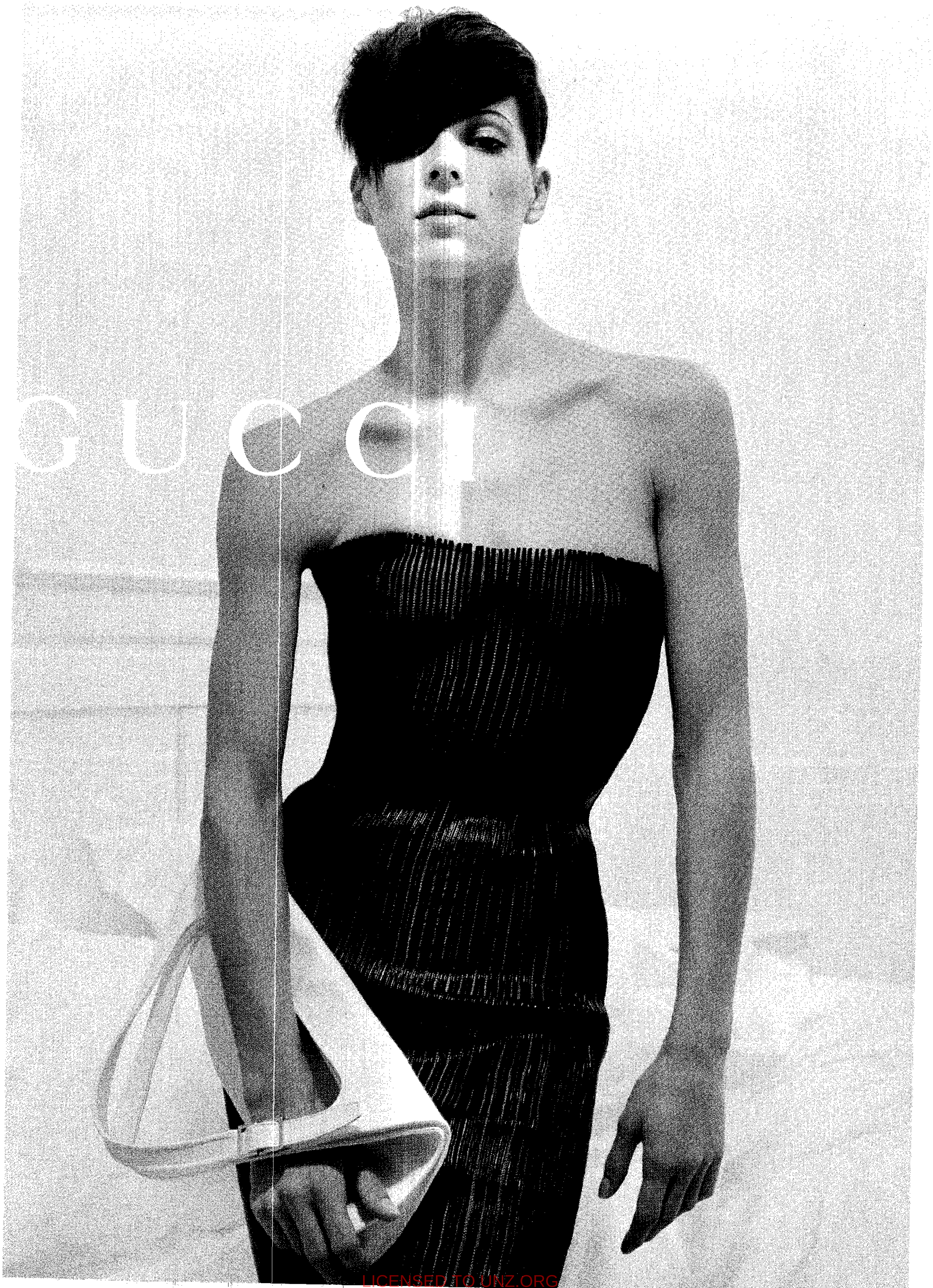

GUCCI

It is too soon for a World Center. Therefore, accept in the meanwhile this Battle-Post—Le Corbusier

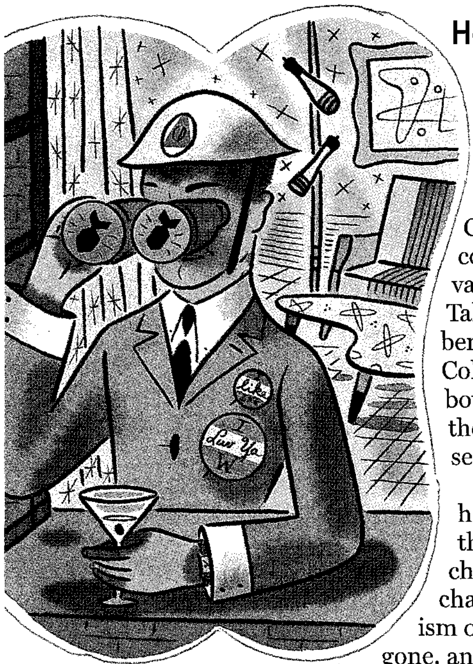
GOTHAM

Edited by Andrew Lee and Carl Swanson

Cold Comfort

How we all can learn to stop worrying and love the new Cold War chic.

By Robert Kolker



The Cold War's back! The hostage crisis with Red China might be over, and Putin hasn't banged his shoe in public, but the murky, glad-handing, free-trade era of Clinton has reverted to the clean, machined lines of, well, one of those Eames sofas you can pay thousands of dollars for down on Lafayette Street. And with the HUAC—er, decency commission—Rudy Giuliani's putting the finishing touches on his decidedly fifties vision of a city. Meanwhile, down in Washington, Bush and his resurrected Cold Warriors, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld, are busy beating up on North Korea.

"Bush and Giuliani are compatible in their values," says Gay Talese, who remembers the first-run Cold War. "They both believe that there is virtue in a sense of order."

It's remarkable how quickly these things have changed lately: The chaotic, DIY capitalism of the dot-coms is gone, and the blue chip is back. Norman Siegel, the civil-liberties champion, is running for public advocate in an anachronistic, free-the-Rosenbergs kind of way. The Yankees haven't been this unstoppable since . . . the early Atomic Age. Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, designer of the newly renovated Lever House, is putting up an all-glass AOL Time Warner Center (no more pomo granite cladding). The sleek TWA terminal—not to mention the Establishment lobby of the Time & Life building—is a landmarking cause célèbre. Do you really need any other signs?

"There is always a yearning for order and coherence in society," says Columbia history professor Alan Brinkley. "The return of a modernism that we had repudiated is a reaction to the incoherence of postmodernism. In some ways the Cold War ending has made the world a harder place to understand. I suppose it's also too much for Bush to think of the world as a complex place."

Of course, the second time around, Cold War chic has lost its deadly edge. (Was anyone really afraid of what China would do?) Cozy amidst their mid-century-modern furniture, contemplating the city from a plate-glass skyscraper, the city's cocktail-swilling intellectual elite is even down with Castro again.

So history is reprocessed as farce. "You had this man-in-a-gray-suit sensibility, and an architecture that was almost intimidating—but in a wonderful, thrilling way," says Caroline Zaleski, director of advocacy for the local chapter of DOCOMOMO, which presses for the preservation of modern architecture. "Hopefully, it's coming back. We already have men in gray suits sitting around in Cabinet rooms again."

G SPOTS

THIS WEEK IN NYC

Rudy's booze ban: The mayor attempts to outlaw liquor at outdoor events. In a related story, the St. Patrick's Day parade announces that it will take place beneath a giant tarp.

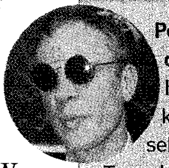
ICE COLD
BEER & SODA

The $16,000 tip: A stockbroker drops a startling gratuity at Nello. It's good to know all the money you lost on the stock market is going somewhere useful.

Ferrer's new endorsements: Geraldine Ferraro and Ruth Messinger back the Bronx borough prez for mayor. Next, he says he wants the endorsement of people who've actually won an election.

P. Diddy's duds: His Sean John line nabs a menswear-award nomination from the Council of Fashion Designers of America. The category? Best Holster.

Raoul Felder's art appreciation: The infamous matrimonial attorney is appointed to Giuliani's decency commission. In exchange, he'll give the mayor a decent rate on his divorce.



Peter Gatien wants out: After a death at his club, the nightlife kingpin is rumored to sell the Limelight and Tunnel. He's decided to go into a safer, more predictable business: the stock market.

GUY NICOLUCCI

Photographs: from top, Richard B. Levine (2); Francis Roberts. Illustration by Michael Klein.

THE BIG QUESTION

How should the alleged salad-bar sprayer be punished?

Ann Dexter-Jones, party girl: "I'd have him wash and dry dishes at a homeless shelter for a month—under close scrutiny."

Deborah Norville, anchor, *Inside Edition:* "How about a couple hundred hours of cleaning bathrooms? He could start on Grand Central and Penn Station. Presumably he wouldn't mind, given his fondness for the subject."

Todd Barry, comedian: "He should be forced to eat any of the items he missed."

Mario Batali, Food Network chef and restaurateur: "He should be forced to consume the contents of his own bladder and bowels for three days while confined in a plastic box in Times Square. Then he should be tied up and sprayed with the stuff he used on the salad bars. And then he should be forced to chum for rats in the New York sewers."

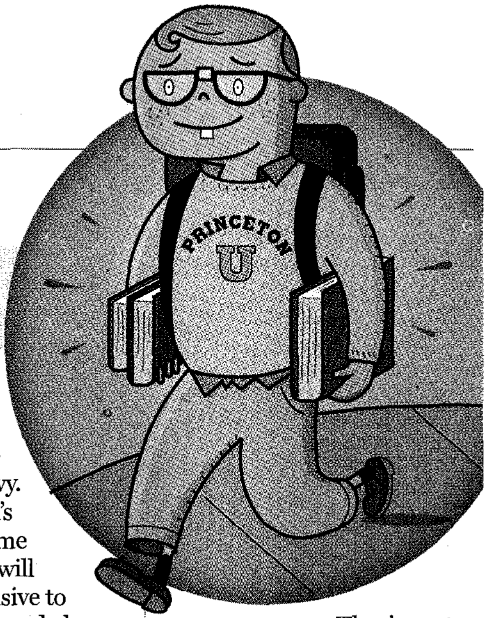
Baek Ilnan, hot-food buffet chef, Cafe 49: "He's an animal. He belongs in a zoo."

Mo Rocca, correspondent, *The Daily Show With Jon Stewart:* "He should be forced to serve on Mayor Giuliani's decency panel."

JADA YUAN

The Ivy League

Nerd Quotas



With college-admissions letters going out right about now, it's time to consider that maybe you should have pushed your kids a little harder. At least one Ivy institution thinks you might have been less concerned with getting them away from the computer and into the fresh air. Princeton has decided to let in 125 more students starting around 2004, which will end up expanding the student body by 500. But this effort to "strengthen the quality of the university," as an in-house report puts it, won't include more student athletes: "This category of students is not expected to grow." Which means more mathletes. Quite a stinging towel-snap for a school known for its jock-friendliness.

It's certainly gotten other admissions offices sniping. "The faculty isn't happy. That's what this is about," says the director of admissions at another Ivy. "And so Princeton's trying to make some adjustments that will seem to be responsive to that unhappiness, and also perhaps that will make an actual change."

"While you certainly have to be a strong student to be considered," notes Manhattan college counselor Dr. Katherine Cohen, "Princeton did tend to favor the student athlete." Even though the school only admits 11.7 percent of applicants, history prof Anthony Grafton complained to the *Daily Princetonian* that the intellectual quality of the student body is in decline. Why? "Our emphasis on athletics is much more central to the institution than it is to Harvard and Yale." (Princeton's admissions office didn't return messages.)

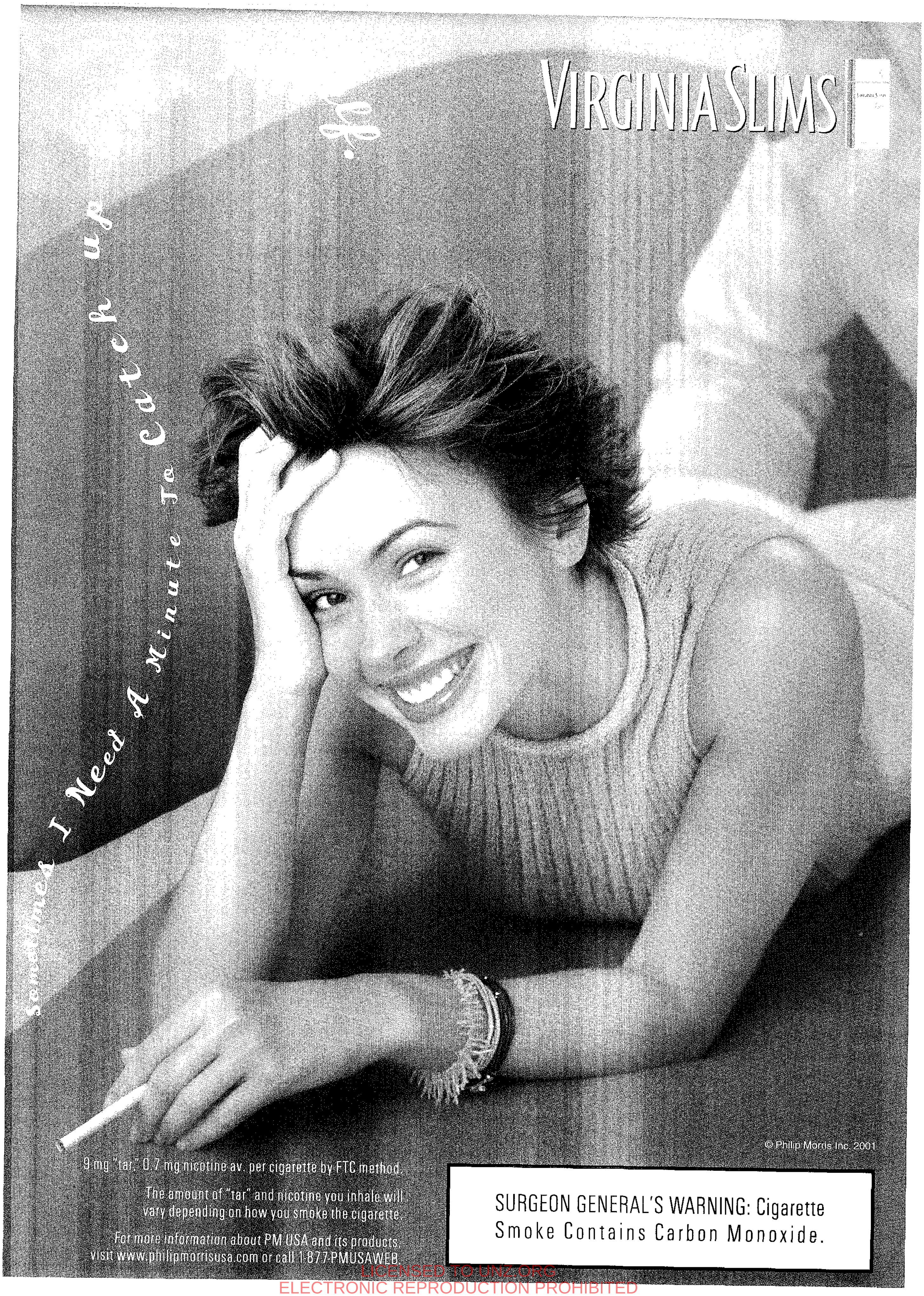
They're not alone; Swarthmore recently got rid of its football team, freeing up spots for freshman geeks. Are similar changes afoot? "We have a very happy faculty," Harvard's director of undergraduate admissions, Marlyn McGrath Lewis, reassures us. So don't expect any special dweeb-recruitment efforts. "We want to enroll the most promising candidates that we can find. And that's not just academic." Yale isn't worried, either. Dean of undergrad admissions Richard H. Shaw says, "The faculty and administration are already quite happy with the students who come here." SARA CARDACE

Idolatry

Great Scott!

"He's floating in the middle of the building," says Corin Hewitt of the eight-foot-tall statue of Willard Scott he stuffed into the air shaft of 13 West 9th Street. The apartment building is owned by Tom Delavan, who used to run the Gramercy Art Fair; Hewitt was doing electrical work there when he persuaded Delavan to let him put in the half-ton cast-marble sculpture. "During the process of installing it, we burst two pipes," says the 29-year-old artist, an intense ex-Vermonter in a brown sweater and hiking boots. "His elbow sticks into a woman's medicine cabinet."

But why Willard? Hewitt mentions the mysticism of weather prediction and insists he isn't being ironic. "I thought of making it inflatable," he says, "but I'm not interested in kitsch." Though the statue might look a bit like Mao about to break into a show tune, Hewitt sees Bernini's *Ecstasy of St. Theresa.* (Until the end of April, it's on display Tuesdays and Saturdays, noon–6 P.M.; later he wants to move it to a grain silo.) In preparation, Hewitt shopped for Scott mementos on eBay and mapped the weatherman's family tree. Eventually, he finagled a buffet brunch and a few photos of Scott at a Virginia Marriott. "I asked him if he felt like weather figured into our spiritual lives, and he said something like God being in the details," Hewitt says. "He's not highly introspective." He approached Scott later for more photos, he says, but "he basically stopped calling me back." CARL SWANSON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Sometimes I Need A Minute To Catch up

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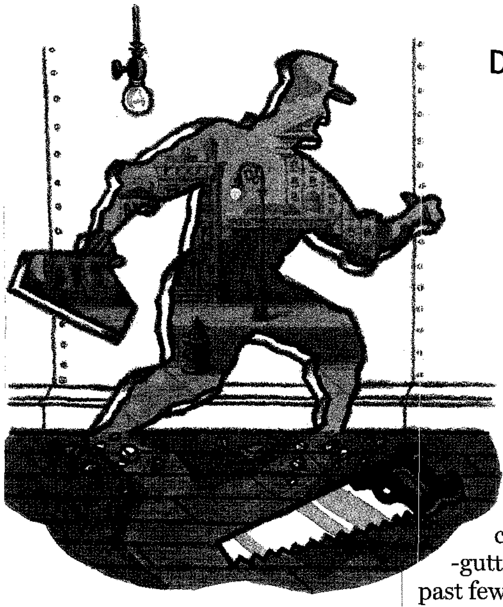
Contractor Pull



During the real-estate boom, contractors were as cocky as dot-com execs. Are they going to be returning your calls at last?

Three quarters of the way through the renovation of her apartment last fall, Jane Goldberg's contractor disappeared. The fact that she's a real-estate broker (for William B. May) only added insult to injury: Brokers help give these guys work! Eventually, she had to move back into the incomplete apartment, then track him down. "And when I finally got him on the phone this March," she huffed, "he said he couldn't come back until September—at the earliest."

Will a softening real-estate market make contractors less cocky? Not yet, at least, because many are still working on a backlog of apartment-combining and -gutting ordered over the past few years. Not to mention all those big new buildings: HRH Construction's Peter Palazzo says his firm has squirreled away two years' worth of work. Which leaves luxury buyers still scrambling. Architect Joe Serrins says he was recently presented with a new-work brochure from a contractor who got his start doing takeout restaurants. It featured a SoHo loft in which "every surface was covered with *formica*," he says.

But with the stock dive and (brokers say) handymen's specials not selling, will demand for contractors decline, too? Paul Grassfield, who does high-end work, says the pinch could be felt as soon as six months from now. "Things are loosening up with contractors, absolutely," says Douglas Elliman's Dolly Lenz. She mentions the I.Grace (the Ducasse of contractors), who just called back a client to whom she'd sold an 8,700-square-foot apartment eighteen months ago. "They're starting to call people back and look for work," she says.

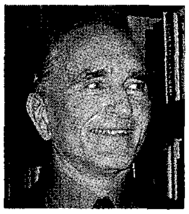
David Bowie's contractor Tim Crowley says he's already feeling the effects. Bid requests are coming in at a comparative trickle, and the budgets for two Brooklyn residential projects evaporated last month. So far, at least, he doesn't miss the work. "Last year we had so much," he says, "it was almost unbearable."

HUNTER KENNEDY

East Hampton Star Search

Radziwill There's No Way

Lee Radziwill still isn't quite ready to give up her ocean view. Back in 1999, Radziwill quietly let it be known that she was willing to sell her East Dune Lane home in East Hampton for $20 million. Jerry Seinfeld signed a contract to buy it for $19 million, but then she changed her mind and returned his deposit. Though she rented out the stuccoed manse for $500,000 last summer, she recently decided, say real-estate sources, that a $15 million offer from New York *Observer* publisher (and aspiring sculptor) Arthur Carter wasn't good enough, either. Carter, a seventies Wall Street star who became a mini-newspaper baron in the nineties (he also owns the Litchfield County *Times*), already owns a waterfront compound in less-chic Remsenburg, L.I. He's usually on the other end of real-estate rejection: He controls the notoriously finicky co-op board at 2 East 67th Street. Messages for Radziwill were not returned, and Carter was not available for comment.



MORGAN GOLDBERG

Big Deals

Chelsea

320 West 15th Street

5-bed, $3\frac{1}{2}$-bath, 4,500-square-foot townhouse. Ask: $2.45 *million. Sell: $2.2 million.* Seven weeks on market.

Since the late eighties, tenants of this four-story brick townhouse had been rocking the Casbah with their landlady, Carolina Varga-Dinicu, a.k.a. Morocco, who ran the Morocco/Casbah Academy studio on the ground floor and lived on the parlor floor. It was hardly Rick's Café Americain, but things are probably going to be a lot quieter now that Morocco's decided to sell the place. Her tenants, who lived in floor-through apartments with fireplaces, must've been shocked—*shocked*—to discover that the buyer, an architect who plans to renovate the place and turn it into two duplexes, wanted the building delivered vacant. So they had to go, reports James Ferrari, chairman of Benjamin James Real Estate.

Upper West Side

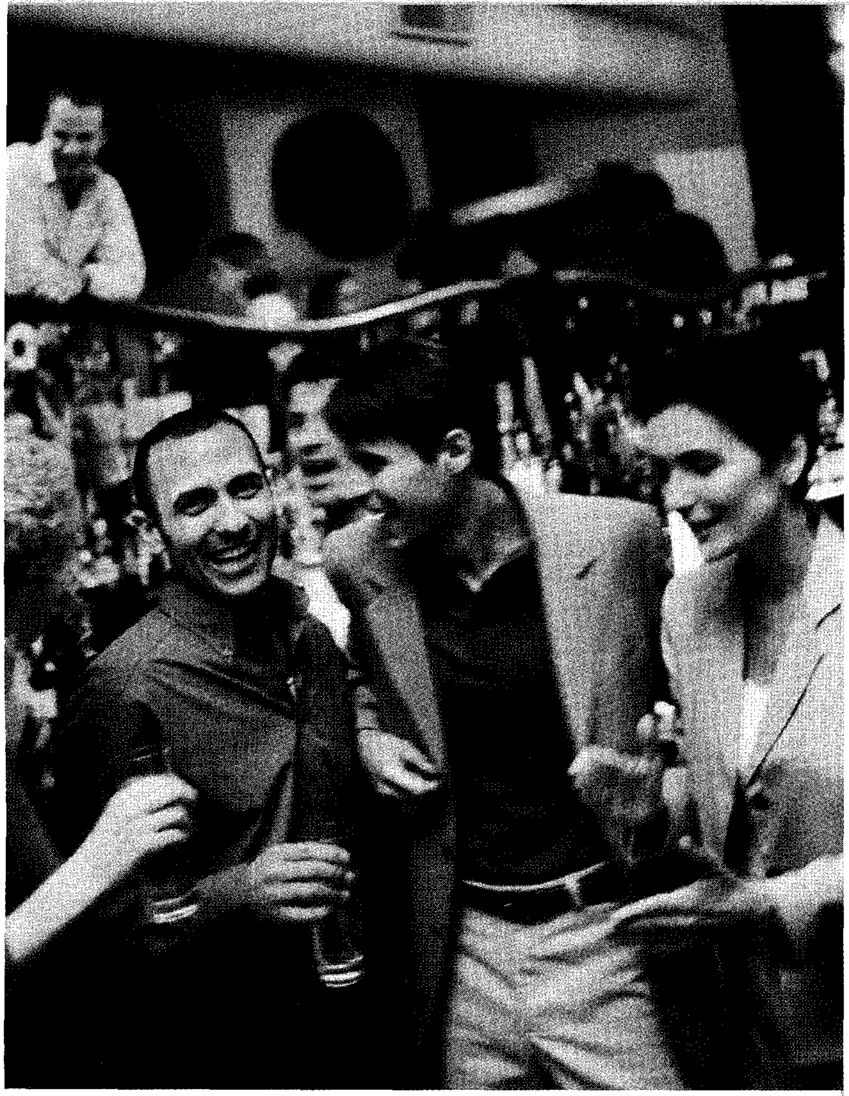
100 West 78th Street

4-bed, 3-bath, 1,800-square-foot co-op. Ask: $1.6 million. Sell: $1.6 million. Maintenance: $1,499. Two weeks on market.

When former Superman Christopher Reeve sold this four-bedroom duplex penthouse nine years ago, he must have wondered what the buyer, a single woman, would do with all the space. "She had two cats," says the broker, Douglas Elliman's Jeff Feuer. "They, um, each had their own bedroom." She sold the apartment, with its 1,000-square-foot terrace—*Up, up, and away!*—last month to a screenwriter and his family. Now the bedrooms will be occupied by his three kids. EMILY GITTER

Photograph: Rose Hartman/Globe Photos. Illustration by Sean Kelly.

Great Parties Call For Great Places.



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Style AMY LAROCCA

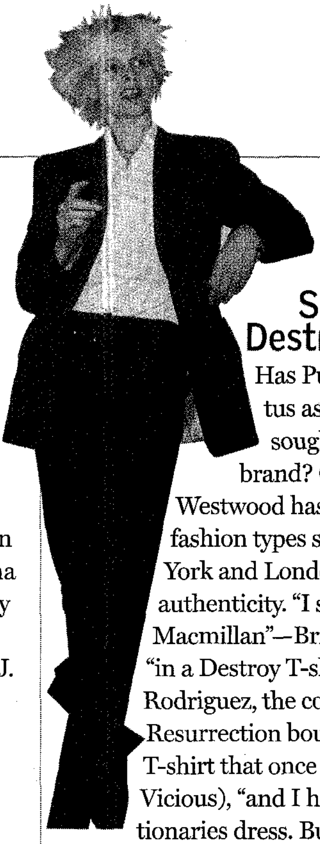
Inconspicuous Consumption

Every season is defined by a few conspicuous key items. Last spring we had the Prada lipstick skirt and all that logomania. This year, there are grommets and Marc Jacobs's buckle flats. While it may be *fashionable* to wear this stuff now, there are those who argue that it's more stylish (and far less slavish!) to buy it, hide it, and slowly roll it out a few seasons later, when everyone is being spoon-fed something else. One fashion editor has plotted her purchase of a Louis Vuitton–Stephen Sprouse bag, which she plans to carry sometime before 2005, but not, God forbid, *this* spring. And it'll soon be safe to bring those logo-covered items back out. "Wearing logos," says one glossy stylist, "is such a *faux pas* that it's cool again."

Dressed to the Nine Irons

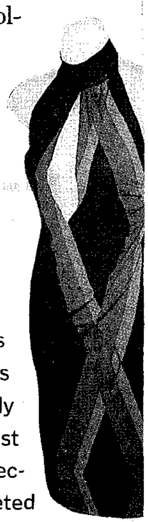
Like the once-stodgy sport of tennis before it, golf is getting a sexy new edge. These days, Generation Y golfing magazines like *Schwing!* aren't just being sarcastic when they feature "Hotties of the LPGA." At a recent tournament, leggy Swede Catrin Nilsmark (perhaps aiming for the Anna Kournikova award) raised eyebrows by strutting around in a pair of black hot pants designed by fellow countryman J. Lindeberg. Male pros Jesper Parnevik and Adam Scott are also sporting Lindeberg's colorful On Course golf line—which includes purple plaid pants, fuchsia argyle sweaters, and fitted brown, purple, and plum polos with gold Lurex stripes on the cuffs. After all, nobody wants to fade into the links. "For decades, *golf fashion* was an oxymoron," admits *Maximum Golf* editor-in-chief Michael Caruso. But no more. Wonder what Tom Ford could do with that stuffy green Masters jacket?

ARIC CHEN



Search for Destroy

Has Pucci lost its status as the most sought-after vintage brand? Old Vivienne Westwood has punk-loving fashion types scouring New York and London for a bit of authenticity. "I saw Dan Macmillan"—British playboy—"in a Destroy T-shirt," says Katy Rodriguez, the co-owner of the Resurrection boutique (and of a T-shirt that once belonged to Sid Vicious), "and I have a Seditionaries dress. But it's really hard to find." Kate Moss has original Westwood witches' boots, and Katie Grand (fashion director of *The Face*) has a scarf from the Pirates collection. Cecilia Dean turned heads at the Frick's Tartan Ball in old Westwood plaids. But if you can't get the original—if it was worn properly the first time around, after all, it may not be in the best shape anymore—settle for the updates. Both Chanel and Celine have done buckled boots that call Westwood to mind, and Clements Ribeiro has a sash that is evocative of the Pirates. Mohawks and dog collars, however, you'll have to supply on your own.

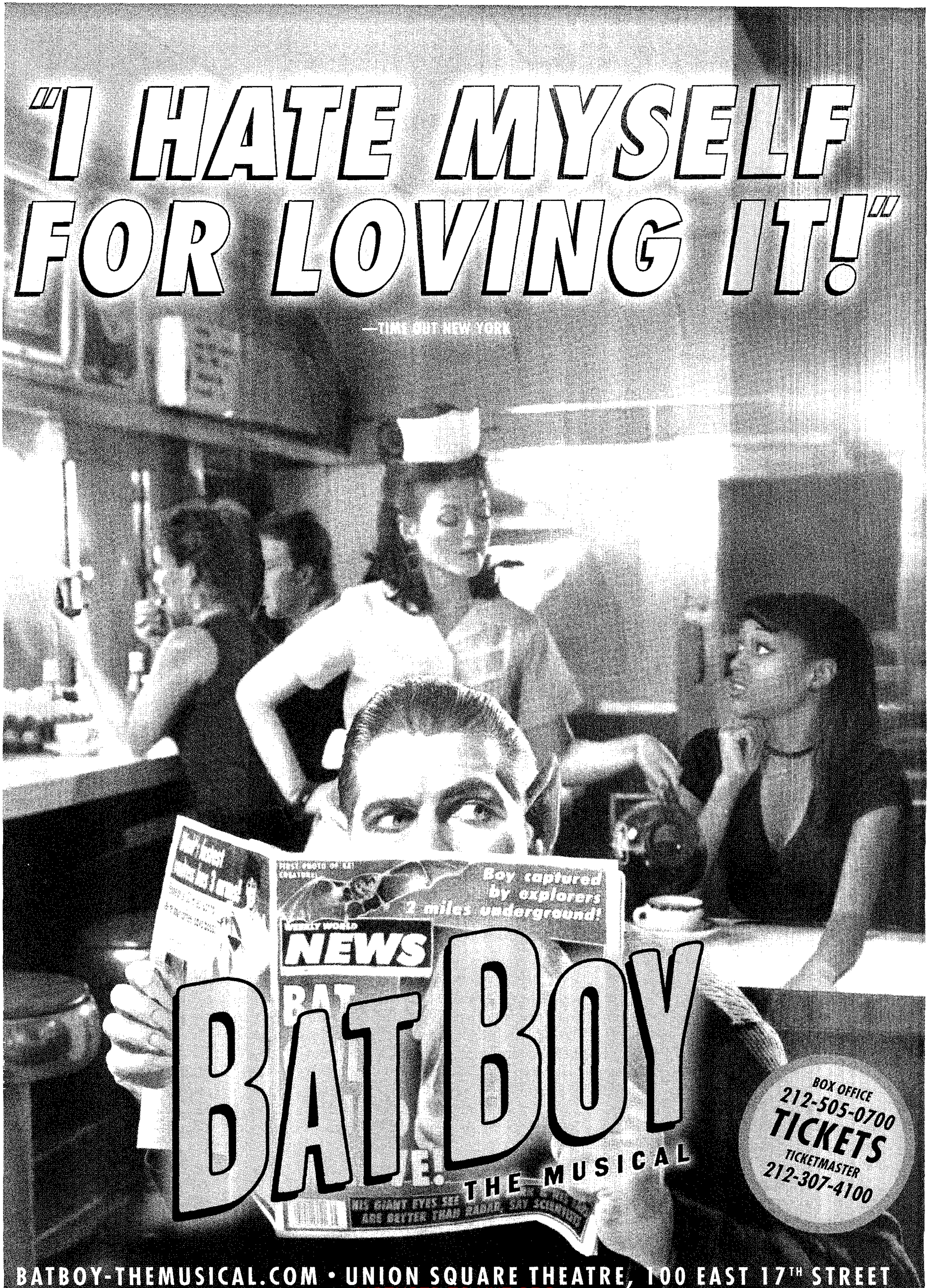


Smart Set

Fran Marchese

"I love Rivington Street!" says Fran Marchese, Lower East Side can-do girl, with typical enthusiasm. Just over two years ago, Marchese and cohort Lisa Gartner opened Welcome to the Johnson's, a cozy neighborhood bar with wood paneling and portraits on the wall. After that, the pair launched Tiny's—perhaps the world's smallest sandwich shop—two doors down from the bar. But after working so hard to get the bar and grill off the ground, Marchese had a revelation. She'd all but stopped shopping. "I wanted to have a boutique so I could buy lots of things!" she exclaims. And so Loisaida was born. The inventory at this hip boutique is unique and, in a nod to people who actually live in the neighborhood, affordable—most things are under $150. This spring, she's ecstatic about an Estevan Ramos grommeted denim jacket and Lucy in the Sky handmade leather goods. In May, she plans to have "Swap Don't Shop" nights where friends and customers can come in, hang out, and trade gossip and clothes. And then, perhaps, relax with a drink next door. MONICA SCHWEIGER

Photographs: from top, Ray Stevenson/Retna UK; Allsport; Noah Sheldon (2). Illustration by Bill Donovan.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Michael Wolff THIS MEDIA LIFE

The Big Chill

Now that we know the New New Thing isn't the Next Big Thing, what will we all talk about? We've lost our window into the commercial unconscious.

UP UNTIL A VERY SHORT WHILE AGO, ANYONE who had any hope of getting anywhere could tell you with great and artful confidence what would be the next big thing. In fact, the more confident you were, the better chance there was that what you wanted to be next would be next. Everybody—managers, marketers, editors, producers, software engineers, investors, and P.R. professionals—filed into the conference rooms (together or by discipline) and then, using an analysis whose primary assumptions were vast liquidity and an insatiable appetite for technological innovation, debated the future, and how to sell it. It was not just the technology, the killer app, about which people were prescient and bullish, but the entire matrix of attitude and behavior and style that surrounded these new projects and cultural developments.

But that was in another country, and that period of confidence has inalterably passed.

Now people whose business it is to know what's next—certainly the fundamental skill of the media business—ask one another in hushed or existential tones: *What's your sense?*

The largeness of the question (it is a question that involves media, business, politics, the economy, technological development, and the relationship of each of these things to the other—a new version of the old military-industrial complex), and our current inability to answer it, take us, if only for a moment, from our narrowcast interests back to our mass-media roots. What's the national theme and preoccupation? The American paradigm? It's not only frightening but galling to have no handle on it.

Just how conservative are we becoming—or is this the right's flukish last gasp? Will it be recession—and what will be the impact on a generation that has never had a setback—or will this, too, pass? And the census—is the country actually becoming Hispanic? Will reality programming last (cheaper content for smaller audiences)? What is the *Sopranos* effect (better content for people willing to pay)? Is anyone serious about wireless? Napster—have we entered an era of trying to repress the irrepressible (digital reproduction may be to modern times what sex was to Victorians)? Is the California electricity thing the beginning of infrastructure breakdown (I woke up the other day to find that my high-speed Internet provider had gone bankrupt and summarily cut off access to its several hundred thousand customers)? Where does hoof-and-mouth strike next?

What do audiences want? What does Wall Street want? What do consumers want?

WE'VE LOST OUR SECOND SIGHT INTO THE collective commercial unconscious.

The issue is both tonal and economic. It's not enough to tighten your belt to survive the downturn, but if you want to be able to speak to the new mood, and sell into it, it's necessary to understand how the change—from boom to not boom, from certainty to uncertainty, from liquidity to cash crunch, from technology that promises to work to technology that is likely to fail, from Clinton to Bush—changes us.

We have to find the psychological Rubicon, then cross it together.

John Brockman, the literary agent and technology gadfly, formally surveyed a high-flying group of his digerati associates recently on the question of what's next—and absolutely no one responded. For his part, Brockman, who wrote one of the first books extolling the figures of the digital revolution, sees the entrepreneurial age morphing into "a bunch of very boring companies run by people you don't want to know in your personal life."

Chee Pearlman, the former editor of *I.D.*, the much-vaunted design magazine, writes me from the furniture show in Milan, a world-class gatherings of style, sensibility, look, feel, and innovation: "It looks like it will be a great show this year, the last big bang before the new restraint creeps in." (I begin to imagine the new restraint: no-wait restaurants, less cable news, better-behaved teenagers, along with, on the downside, the George Bush dress code, zero tolerance, *faith-based* as an adjective.)

Joan Juliet Buck, whom the Newhouses have just relieved of her command of French *Vogue*, is back in the States, thinking about settling in Santa Fe (perhaps Santa Fe, again, will be the

About

What's "The Next Big Thing"? Talk with "This Media Life" columnist Michael Wolff in an online chat Wednesday, April 18, at 8 P.M. on newyorkmag.about.com.

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next big thing) and offering her view, over lunch, that drugs, new kinds of drugs, targeted and clever feel-good drugs, will be the next big thing. We were talking about the mania, the I-can-do-anything-and-be-anything spirit of the nineties and its parallels to the sixties (the nineties were as transformative—the money as free-flowing and the moment as anomalous—as the sixties), with this, therefore, being the seventies, which is, Joan points out, when the drug binge really began.

James Atlas and I, considering the what-next question, are discussing the success of *Buddha*, by Karen Armstrong, which he's published in his series of short biographies, and which is now riding the *Times* best-seller list. Indeed, his two best-selling biographies are of Buddha and Saint Augustine. Can that mean anything else but that there is a great search for spirituality and moral leadership?

But I am not convinced. Mostly, these seem like generic preoccupations. These are the shibboleths of human nature—corporatism, caution, drugs, and spirituality—rather than the aspirations: how to get more, cheaper, faster, which in our age has been the main motor of technology, culture, and finance.

AND YET *THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE*, which has made a genre out of special issues that pose the overarching who-we-are-and-what-we-want questions, just went with a big issue about avarice—the mechanics of getting what you want to get: how to get into college after you've been rejected; how to re-invent yourself as a popular kid; how to raise a genius; how to dump a friend.

Tonally, the *Times Magazine* seemed off by an epoch.

The struggle it portrayed was about the vicissitudes of life at the ever-more-crowded top of the economic pinnacle. Indeed, in the magazine's go-go view, the pyramid has been inverted. It's the rich competing for the last morsels.

We are all individual entrepreneurs, personal brands (in that fast-fading lingo), duking it out for mindshare and market penetration.

The *Times Magazine* seemed like a mean *Fast Company*—or the real-life version of *Survivor*, or this new show, *The Weakest Link*, with its innovation of a rude host (which may also go down in history as the only show we got sick of before it went on the air).

Possibly that is how its editors would defend their tonal choice—where we are now, post-boom, is *Fast Company* with the gloves off, everyone trying to

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hold on to what gains he's gotten.

Now, I may be a stickler, but to me, this defines a past or even lost aspiration rather than a new one.

It does, however, bring up the issue of *Fast Company*, which was acquired last fall by Gruner + Jahr, a division of Bertelsmann, which owns Random House, for something like $500 million—so you might interpret this move as a major media prognostication. Likewise, Condé Nast, which owns *Wired*, also bid big for the title. Now, it seems fair to ask on what basis these companies could possibly imagine that, with the overthrow of the dot-com nation and the collapse of the New Economy, anyone would want to read such a magazine.

It occurs to me, though, that this is another way to approach the conundrum of what's next. If your pockets are deep enough, you can just wait around till everybody else goes out of business—it's the consolidation or Last Man Standing view of the market (indeed, many people say consolidation is what's next).

But it doesn't do much for the rest of us, who have to know what's next before the cash runs out.

I CALL UP KURT ANDERSEN, WHOSE COMPAny Inside.com, one of the best-funded and most highly publicized launches of the past year, was just sold for what, in essence, was the cash it had on hand (reportedly, the company had $10 million worth of venture capital left—its cash was its asset).

We have a somewhat prickly conversation because Kurt is trying to put the best face on his situation. "Victory with an asterisk," he's calling it. "We've lost an arm, but we're still alive," he says. (This is partly my point: If Kurt's confidence is qualified, then whose isn't?)

But that's not really why I'm calling him. Rather, I want to tap his famous Zeitgeist sense at this exposed and vulnerable moment.

"All bets are off," Kurt says.

What he sees in the marketplace, and among those trying to bring things to the marketplace, is "simultaneous confusion and bewilderment."

> "We are all, at least for the moment, traumatized and clueless. (*Talk* magazine, heretofore embarrassing for its cluelessness, turns out to be prescient.)"

It is, in his analysis, not just a mood thing but also a structural issue.

It used to be, he says, that if you built "a passionate audience around a media product, unless you were insanely stupid, a revenue-and-profit model would follow, but now that's not the case. It's like a law of physics being overturned."

There's an unbundling, he says, of advertising and media.

New media may not have worked, but old media doesn't work, either.

As for politics, he adds, "the system is almost Soviet, it's so behind the curve."

The dysfunction, said Kurt, who seemed fairly optimistic the last time I talked to him, has "never been so great on so many fronts."

His image of where we are now is a "big hung-over kid sitting in front of the contraption he's taken apart, and the pieces are shining, but he doesn't know how to put it back together."

Kurt is, no doubt, feeling the kind of blues that so many people are feeling now as their enterprises and sure things crumble.

Indeed, these blues, in and of themselves, probably exert a powerful influence on what's next.

I wonder if part of what is occurring is an opposite, but similar, condition to consumer confidence. That is, we have a deep crisis in *sellers'* confidence. The hype is suffering. The confidence to sell has been damaged. The hypesters are abashed.

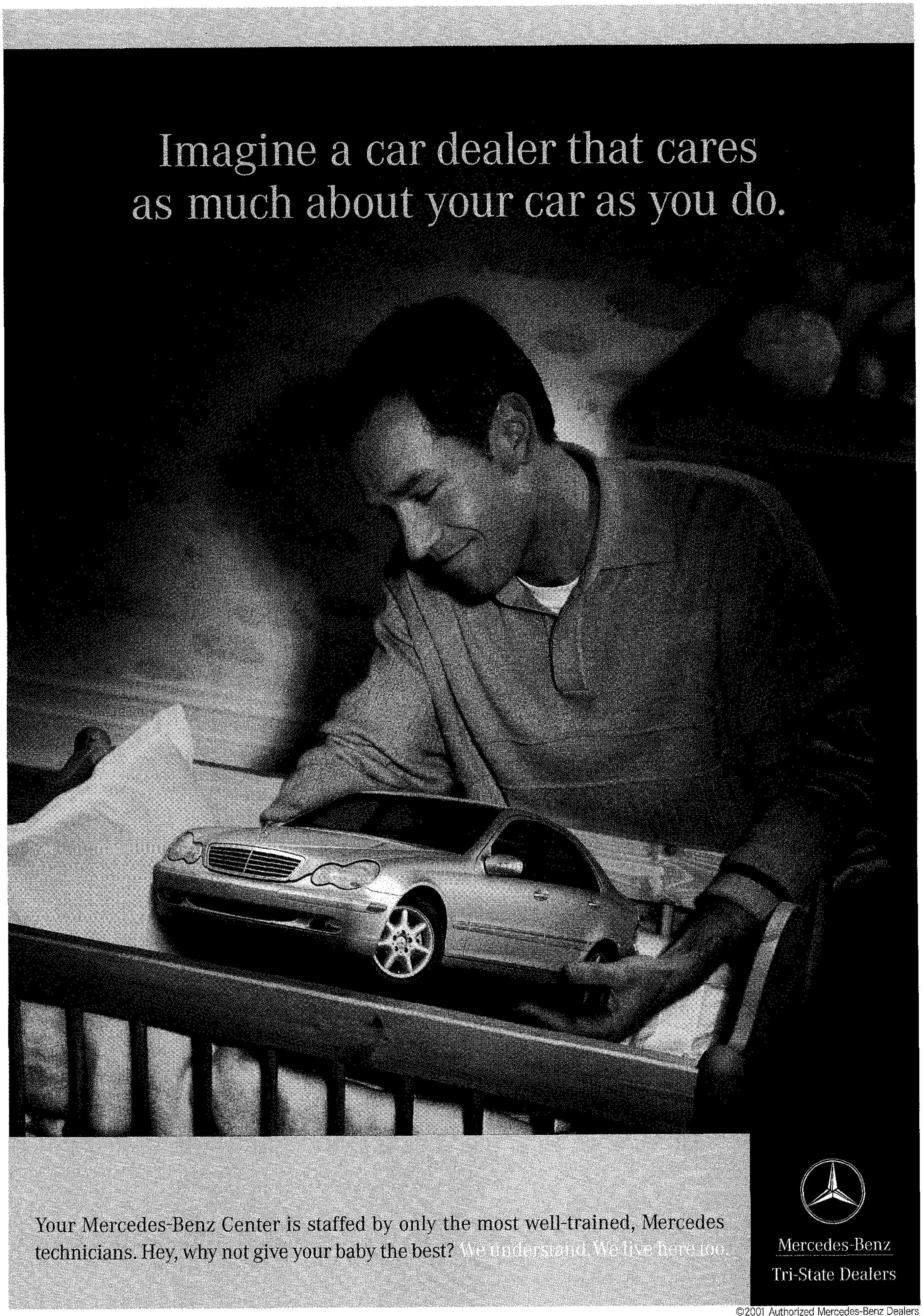
THE GOOD THING ABOUT THIS, YOU CAN RAtionalize, is that the playing field is even.

We are all, at least for the moment, traumatized and clueless. (*Talk* magazine, heretofore embarrassing for its cluelessness, turns out to be prescient.)

Nobody has any advantage. Money isn't talking, technology is not a salvation, primetime is loony, magazine covers aren't selling, and AOL Time Warner (the AOL people just call it AOL) is about to be torn asunder by cultural revolution.

And your e-mails won't reach me until I find a new DSL provider. ■

E-mail: michael@burnrate.com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Michael Tomasky THE CITY POLITIC

Out of Comptroller?

Carl McCall has stellar endorsements and an enviable war chest. So why does his campaign for governor feel like it's losing momentum?

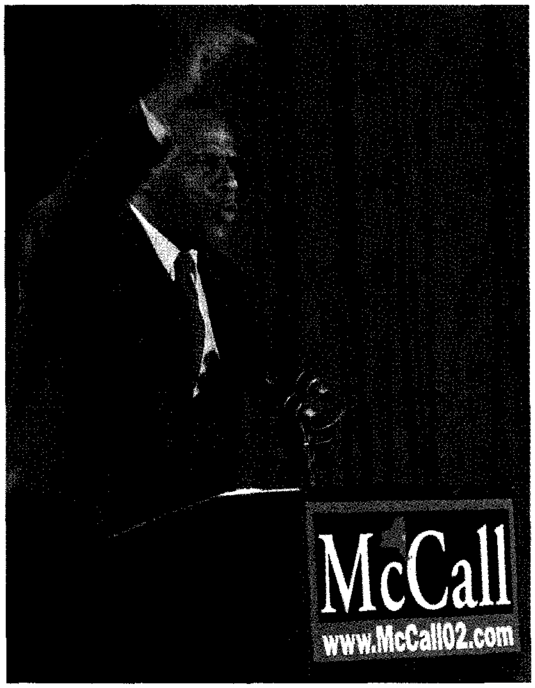
THREE MONTHS AGO—HECK, THREE WEEKS ago—if you'd asked an insider to handicap next year's Democratic primary for governor, your insider would have said one word: McCall. State Comptroller Carl McCall, that is; he was on cruise-control after a crushing defeat of some expendable Republican yearling to win re-election in 1998, and his path to the 2002 nomination was uncluttered and uncomplicated.

Your insider would have recalled to you the scene at last May's state convention in Albany, where 11,500 gathered to nominate Hillary for Senate. McCall's ovation was more thunderous even than hers. He would have chuckled as he talked about the after-parties that night, competing ones hosted by McCall and his gubernatorial rival, Andrew Cuomo, where the boisterous line to get into McCall's soirée snaked up a spiral staircase in the Omni Hotel, while Cuomo's, on a boat docked in the Hudson, couldn't draw flies. This, three weeks ago, would have been your answer.

Now ask the same insider the same question, and he'll wonder whether McCall will make the race. How does someone go from "He's inevitable" to "He may not run" in three weeks' time?

Here, from the nuts-and-bolts department, is how:

- March 22: The *Daily News* reports that McCall's 37-year-old daughter, Marci, is arrested for allegedly writing thousands of dollars' worth of bad checks on her corporate expense account.
- March 24: At an upstate meeting of the Democratic Rural Conference, where most attendees support McCall coming in, it's Cuomo who gives the speech that rouses the audience.
- March 27: News breaks that David Axelrod, the Chicago-based political consultant who has worked with McCall for eight years, is leaving McCall's side (or being pushed away, depending on the source) because the comptroller, as Axelrod tells the press with unusual frankness, has dithered in putting a team together.
- April 4: *The Village Voice*'s Tom Robbins reports that McCall's wife, Joyce Brown, the president of the Fashion Institute of Technology, has spent $529,000 in public money refurbishing her rent-free FIT apartment. The $8,000 worth of kitchen equipment, which needs to be of commercial quality since fund-raising events are catered there, seems reasonable; the $20,500 in draperies for the master bedroom, somewhat less so.



Calling McCall: Since announcing his candidacy on February 1, his campaign has seemed adrift.

Jab, jab, hook, uppercut. Granted, we're seventeen months away from the day when McCall and Cuomo will have their fate decided by the voters. These shots, and for that matter four more like them, are easily survivable in that amount of time, and McCall, who has endorsements from nearly 500 state Democrats of high station and low, is still in a strong position. But some people supporting him, like two I spoke with last Tuesday morning, are suddenly a little nervous. "He's got to stop the rumors that he won't see it all the way," one told me. "He doesn't have a team in place, and people wonder what's going on."

THIS RACE IS THE MOMENT THAT Carl McCall—industrious, diligent, highly credentialed, and, as far as we know, completely honest—has spent a patient quarter-century in politics building toward. Now that he's here, he's staring at three complicating factors.

The first is that we in the press somehow decided that the gubernatorial race started the morning after Hillary won. Much has been made of the emergence, what with all the cable chatter and the Internet, of the 24-hour news cycle. But the constant information stream has also spawned, paradoxically enough, what we might call the 24-month news cycle: All the new airtime and column inches and the rest mean the press has a lot of time and space to fill, so we mostly fill it musing about elections. As recently as a decade ago, an election cycle (presidential races excepted) lasted ten months, maybe a year. Now it's twice that. Early cuts and scrapes that would have been ignored a few years ago are now duly registered and, by insiders at least, remembered. Joyce Brown, holder of a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and a drop-dead-gorgeous

Photograph by AP Wide World Photos.

woman (hey, I'm sorry, but you know it matters), was an asset fully capable of going head-to-head with Cuomo's glammy wife, Kerry Kennedy. Now that's a less even matchup.

Factor two is the opposition. Andrew Cuomo has never won an election, whereas McCall has won five of them going back to 1974. Compared with McCall's 500 endorsers, Cuomo has so far announced exactly zero. But insiders know: The Cuomos play for keeps. P.R. guru Dan Klores and his associates—John Marino, who headed the state Democratic Party when Mario was governor, and Peter Ragone, who ran the West Coast for Al Gore last year—have muscle and know how to use it (Klores's offices constitute a unique electoral nerve center this year: Down the hall from the aforementioned sits Joe DePlasco, the spokesman for Democratic mayoral front-runner Mark Green). Andrew himself developed a reputation for hardball when he ran his father's first campaign, telling startled operatives far older than he (at 23) where to stuff it. Not many people in New York politics like Andrew Cuomo. But they don't doubt his intelligence or, more to the point, his ambition.

How does someone go from "He's inevitable" to "He may not run" **in three weeks' time?**

Which brings us to the third factor. People do doubt McCall's ambition. Many New York Democrats wanted him to run for governor in 1998; he demurred. When Pat Moynihan announced his retirement, the generally accepted idea was that McCall would try for Moynihan's Senate seat in 2000; he took a pass again. Having twice refused the crown, he came to be viewed as lacking the stomach for a fifteen-rounder.

"Maybe people have that perception because of the past," he acknowledges, "but I have made a serious effort to overcome that. What people should see this time is that I have formally announced, 21 months before Election Day, that I'm raising money [nearly $3 million], and that I've got almost 500 supporters onboard." He points to a breakfast meeting he had with legislative supporters on April 3 at which not a negative word was heard. "The one group of people who are not shy about telling you when they think you're screwing up are legislators," says Assemblyman Denny Farrell, a McCall confidant who was at the meeting. "And not one person made any such complaints."

McCall says he plans on assembling a team of advisers in "the next month or so." Some of those close to him, sources say, are still working to woo Axelrod back in. Axelrod sounds like he'll take this seriously only when he hears from McCall himself. "I'm always willing to talk," he says, "but I sort of discount it."

But even more than a good team, McCall needs to breathe a little fire. "When we get down to operating," he vows, "we're going to have a team that's classy, that's smart, and that does what it needs to do to win. And we're going to win. And that means you take no prisoners." It sounds good; now he has to make his fans believe it. ■

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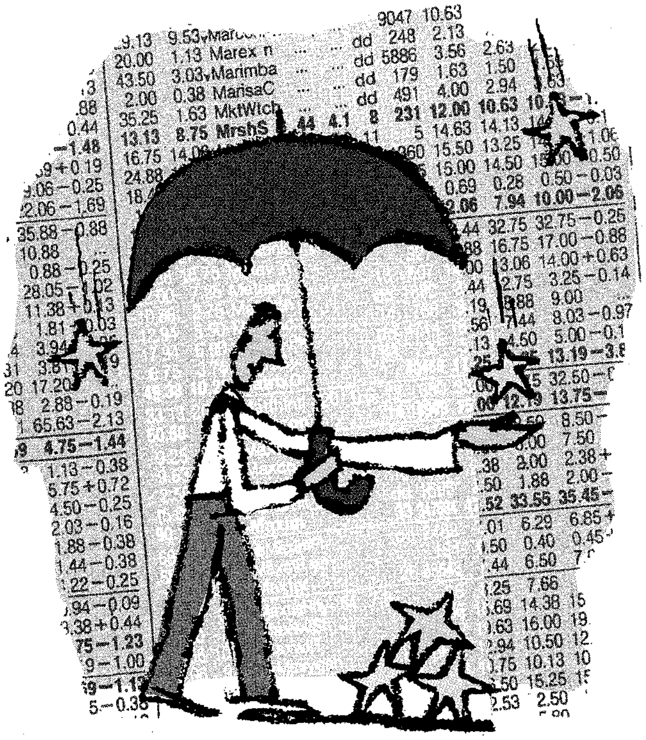
James J. Cramer THE BOTTOM LINE

Opportunity Stocks

You've been hoarding some cash for a rainy day, right? Because this market slump means bargain prices for five local companies poised to bounce back big.

YOU PROBABLY HATE THE STOCK MARKET SO much right now that you don't want to hear about five New York companies that can make you money. But this is exactly the time when you should be listening, because the market's latest bout of pessimism has created some extraordinary values, particularly in those companies that have nothing to do with technology.

Understand that if you buy stocks now you are making a bet on how the companies behind the stocks will do six months from now. Stocks tend to look forward; they forecast prospects half a year out. So you shouldn't care that the Federal Reserve's interest-rate cuts haven't helped the economy yet. The gains are ahead of you if you have the patience to hold on to these stocks for a few months. More important, in every case, if the economy doesn't respond to the rate reductions, these stocks should still work because of intrinsic changes going on at the companies.



AOL TIME WARNER From the beginning, AOL was the different dot-com. While everyone else on the Web wanted to give their sites away, AOL insisted on charging. When other sites had to give up charging because no one would pay, AOL *raised* its price, and it stuck. But all that was child's play compared with the ultimate coup: bagging Time Warner with its overinflated stock before the dot-com boom went bust. AOL swallowed up Time Warner and managed to move out of the Web and into a brick house before the collapse. Now it is applying the same kind of cost control and attention to detail that it exacted within its own ranks to the bloated corporate infrastructure of Time Warner. That allows the company to beat earnings estimates even as almost every other media company gives in to the tougher environment and misses Street forecasts. The recent dip below $40 gave you a chance to get in at prices that may look downright cheap if the economy takes off.

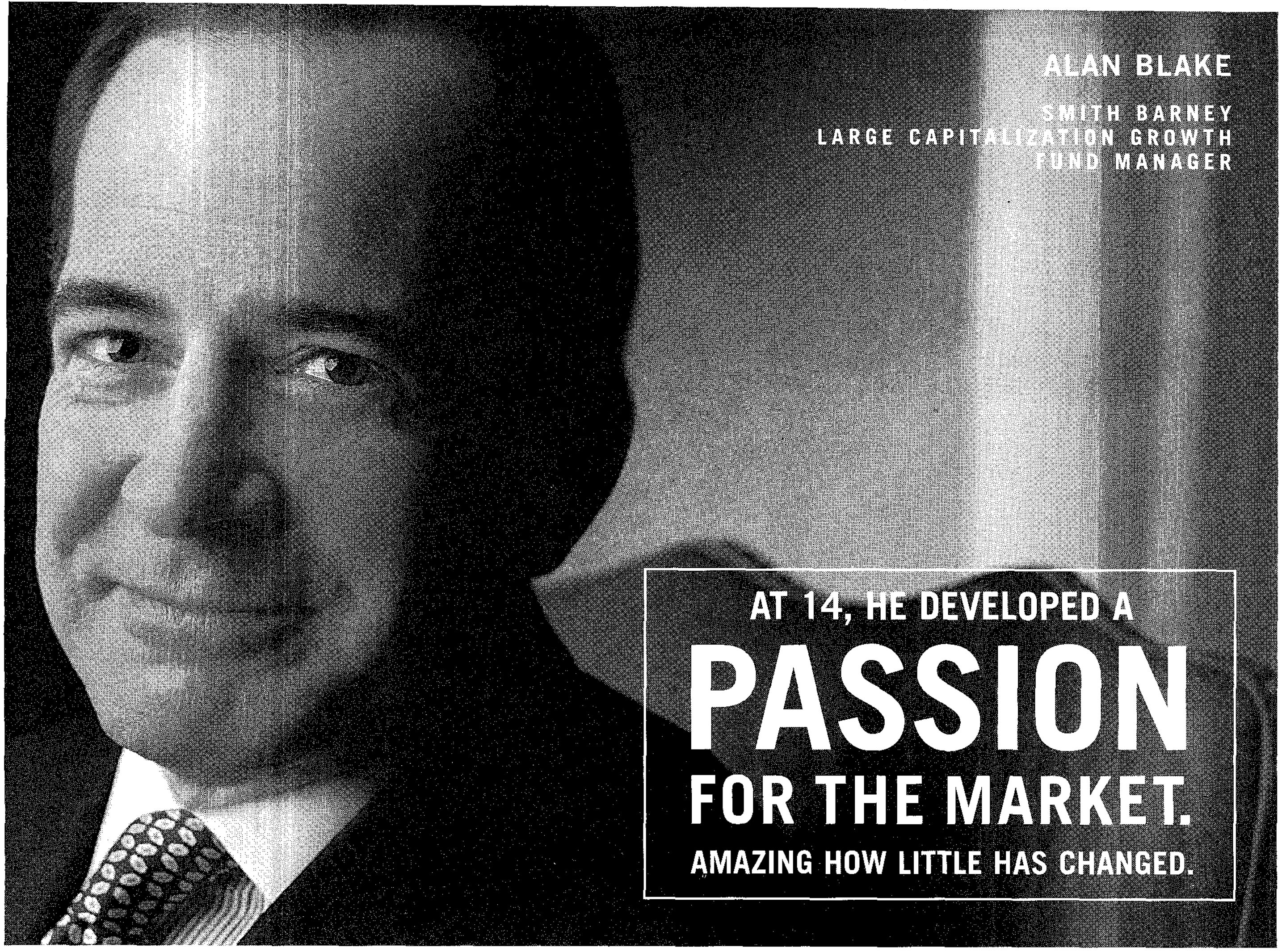
PFIZER Okay, so if the economy doesn't take off, do you *have* to lose money? Pfizer doesn't care where those pesky interest rates go. It's going to make money for you no matter what. Wall Street works in strange ways. When one company buys another company, there's a tremendous amount of cover as Wall Street forgives the first year of any merger. That's where Pfizer is now with its purchase of Warner-Lambert. Pfizer's setting itself up for a banner year as it deals with some huge costs and puts its phenomenal sales force on Warner-Lambert's best drugs, particularly Lipitor, which will be used for much more than just lower cholesterol. (According to studies, patients treated with Lipitor after a heart attack are less likely to suffer further heart attacks and strokes.) Ho-hum? Okay, how about this? Pfizer has a new anti-schizophrenic drug, Geodon, that just got the nod for oral use. While Lilly and Johnson & Johnson tried hard to stop this product, I think it will become the drug of choice in this multibillion-dollar market because it doesn't promote weight gain. As no one expects much of Geodon on Wall Street, when "the Don"—as the shrinks like to call it—delivers, the Street will be wowed by the results.

MERRILL LYNCH Mother Merrill has stunk up the joint all year. But the sell-off is undeserved. Merrill's a repository for billions of dollars in sidelined wealth that will be put to work in equities and bonds when the short rates go so low that they rival your checking account. Merrill is statistically cheap, recently selling at only eleven times next year's already reduced earnings. And while Merrill's stock bides its time, the competition has been decimated, particularly those online upstarts that had threatened to take

TheStreet.com

Check out TheStreet.com's "10 Questions" feature this week. Bill Lippman, co-manager of the Franklin Balance Sheet Investment Fund, is on the hot seat. Available for free at www.thestreet.com.

Illustration by Daniel Baxter.


ALAN BLAKE
SMITH BARNEY
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FOR THE MARKET.
AMAZING HOW LITTLE HAS CHANGED.

Even today, after 23 years on Wall Street, Alan's enthusiasm for the Market hasn't waned one bit. If anything, it's intensified as the experience and knowledge he's gained along the way have helped lead him to America's best-run growth companies. Fads don't interest him. Blue chips captivate him. And blue chips that, over time, grow their earnings and grow their market share really captivate him. Not to mention the quarter-million investors who share his passion.

To learn more about the Smith Barney Large Capitalization Growth Fund and Alan Blake's investment philosophy, call us at 1-888-SERIOUS, ext. 2993, or visit www.smithbarney.com/mutualfunds for a free prospectus. The prospectus contains more complete information, including fees, expenses and risks. Please read it carefully before you invest or send money.

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away market share during the dot-com boom. A sustained upturn in the market will mean bountiful profits in 2002, something no one on Wall Street besides me is looking for.

PHILIP MORRIS If it were just its dividend alone, currently 4.5 percent, Big MO would have to be considered a possible buy, especially if you expect Fed Fund rates to drop to 3.5 percent, as I do. But MO has much more going for it than that. First, it is a real growth company again, with earnings gains in the low teens. Second, American juries seem to be less interested in paying people for smoking than they might have been a few years ago. (Even *The Sopranos* acknowledged in a recent episode that there's no justice if people who smoke get paid for the damage they inflict on themselves.) And if that doesn't do it for you, consider this: In a month, Philip Morris will spin off Kraft, and you will see that smoke's been obscuring the fastest-growing food company in the world. Hurry though, because if you wait for the IPO, you will miss a lot of the appreciation that I expect to come in the next few weeks.

VIACOM How many companies had a president who actually came out in the past month and said that business is on plan and making the numbers won't be a problem. Just one. Viacom's president and chief operating officer, Mel Karmazin, recently said that because of better programming and lots of cost-cutting, Viacom would have no problem making Street estimates. Hey, that's the good news. The great news is that coming out of a recession, media stocks are historically the top performers, and the ones that come out of the gate fastest are the ones that held up the best in the selloff. That means Viacom has the best shot at returning to its old highs of just about any company in the S&P 500. Keep in mind that both Mel and Sumner Redstone have a lot more on the line than most execs. Not only are they massive stockholders, each of these guys seems to live and breathe their stock price, and sources say they regard the $4 handle—Street slang for the first number in the stock price—to be a badge of dishonor that they will do everything in their power to change positively by year's end. ■

James J. Cramer is co-founder of TheStreet.com. At the time of publication, he owns Merrill Lynch, Philip Morris, and AOL Time Warner. He often buys and sells securities that are the subject of his columns and articles, both before and after they are published, and the positions that he takes may change at any time.
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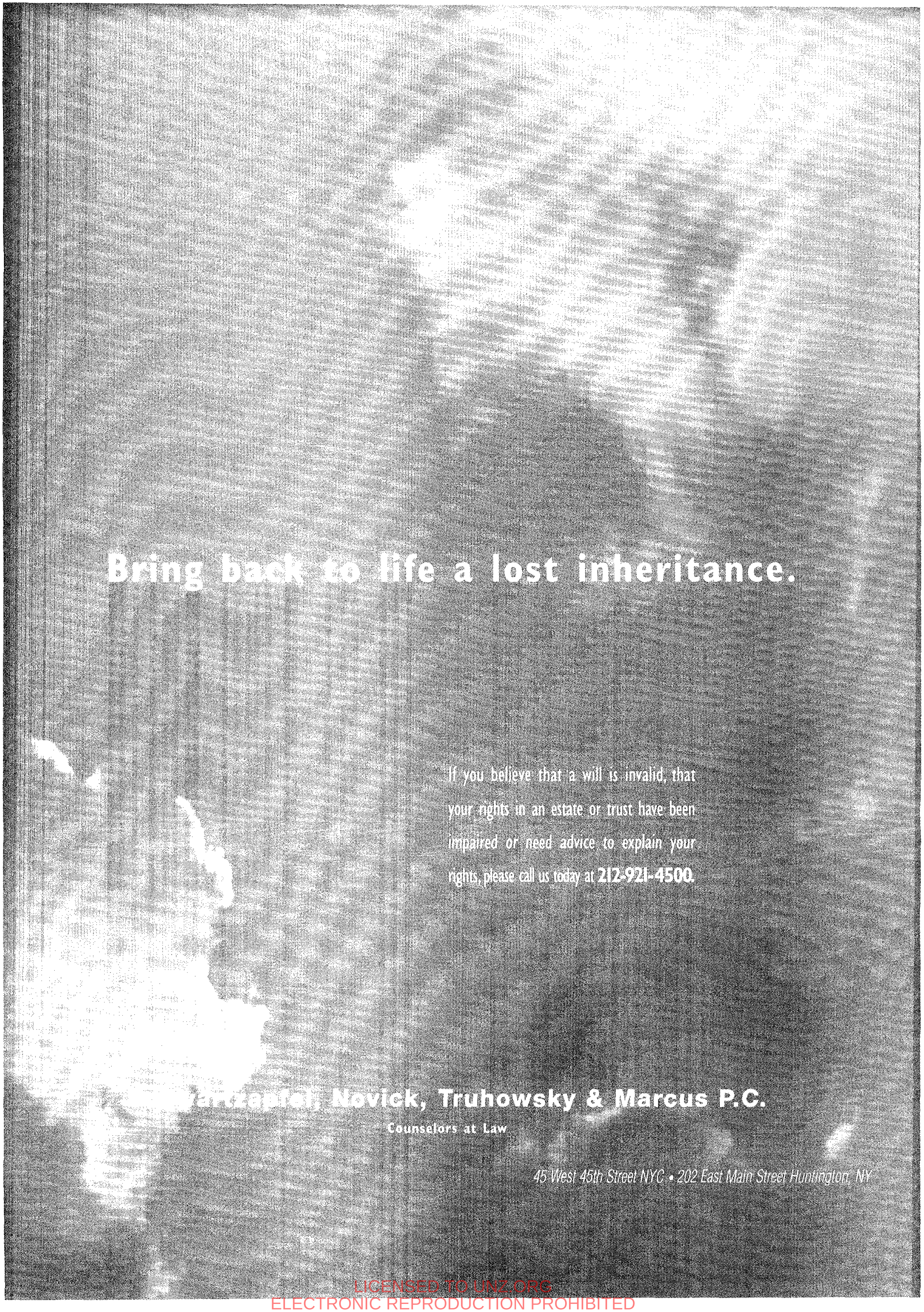

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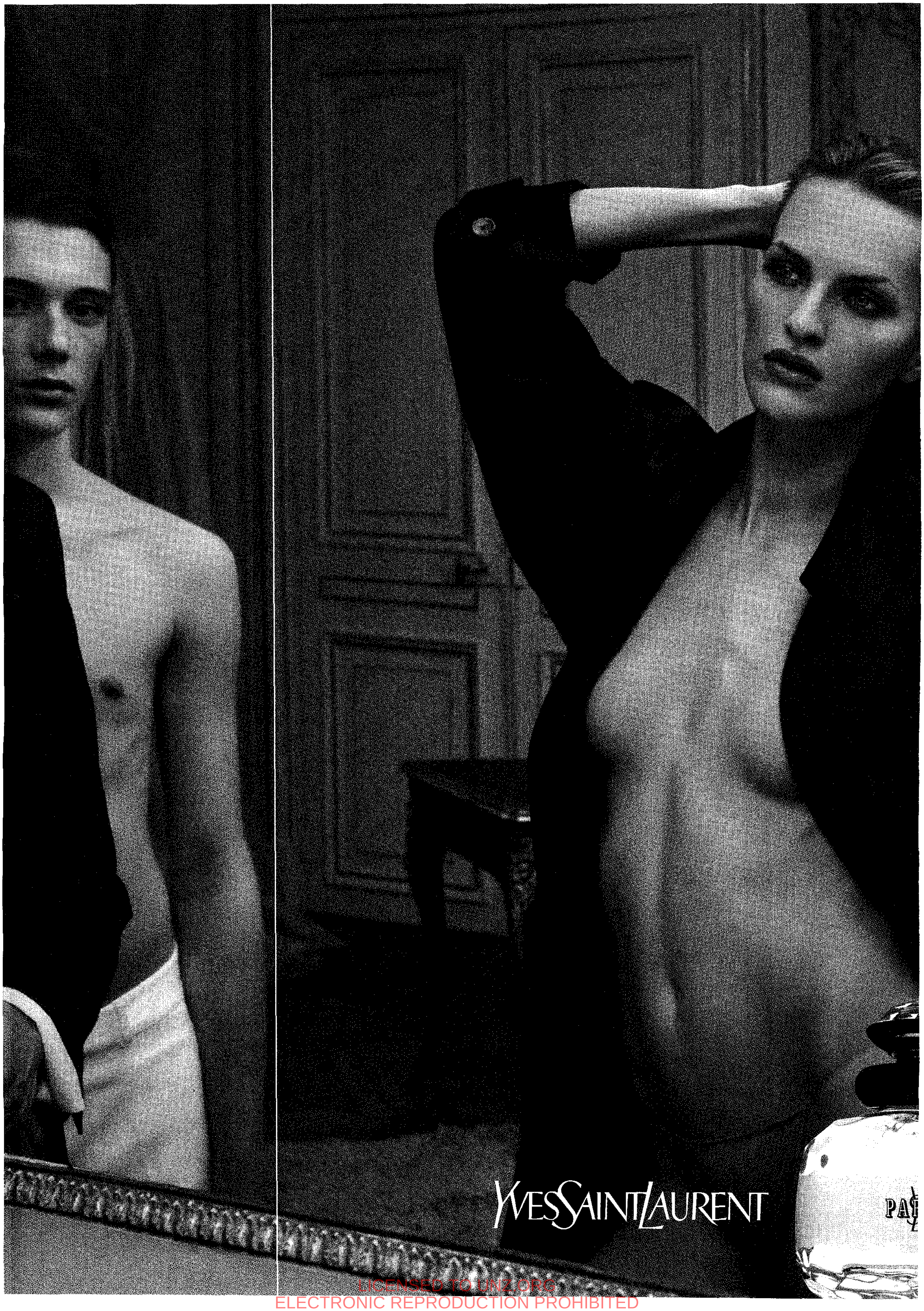
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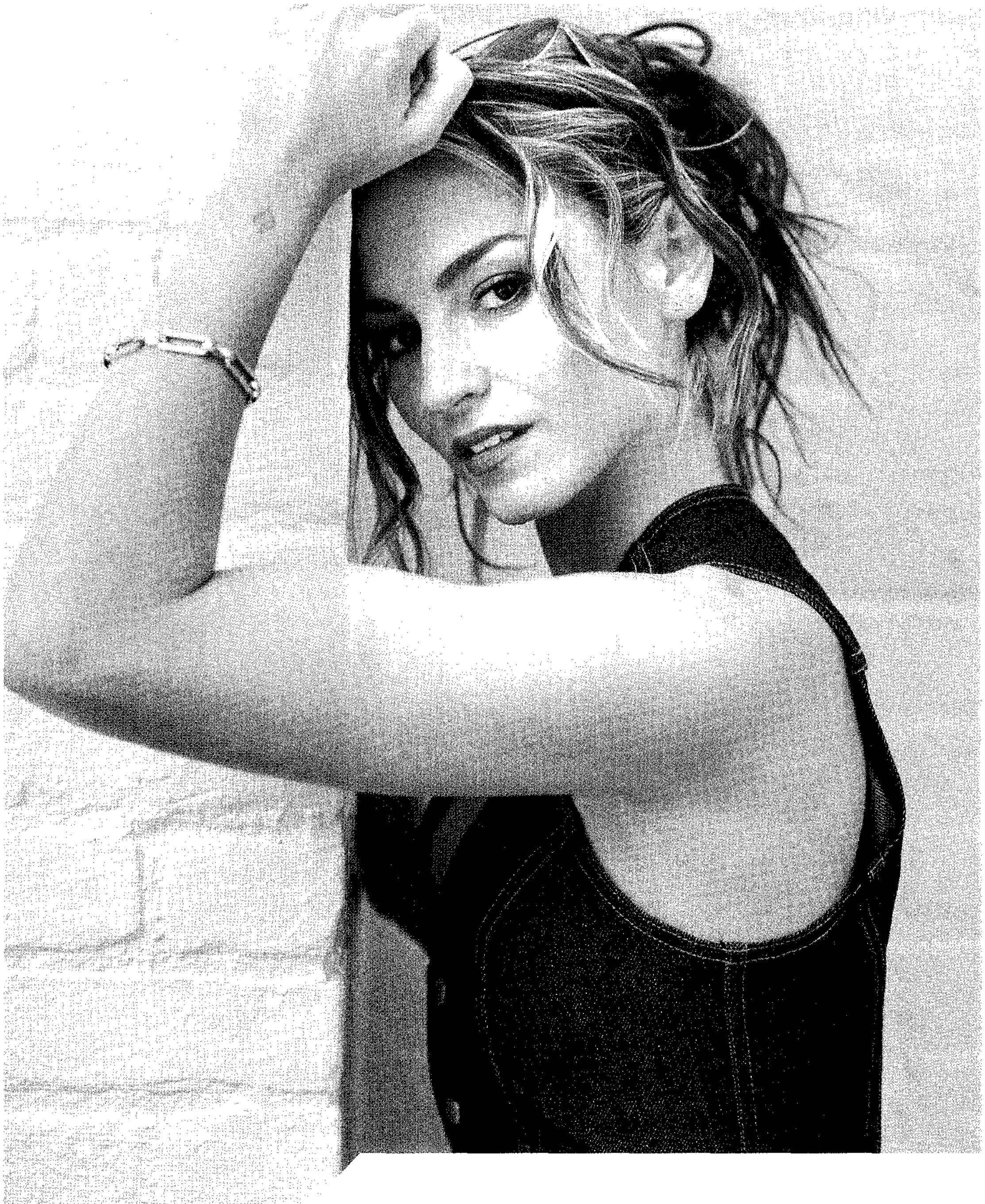


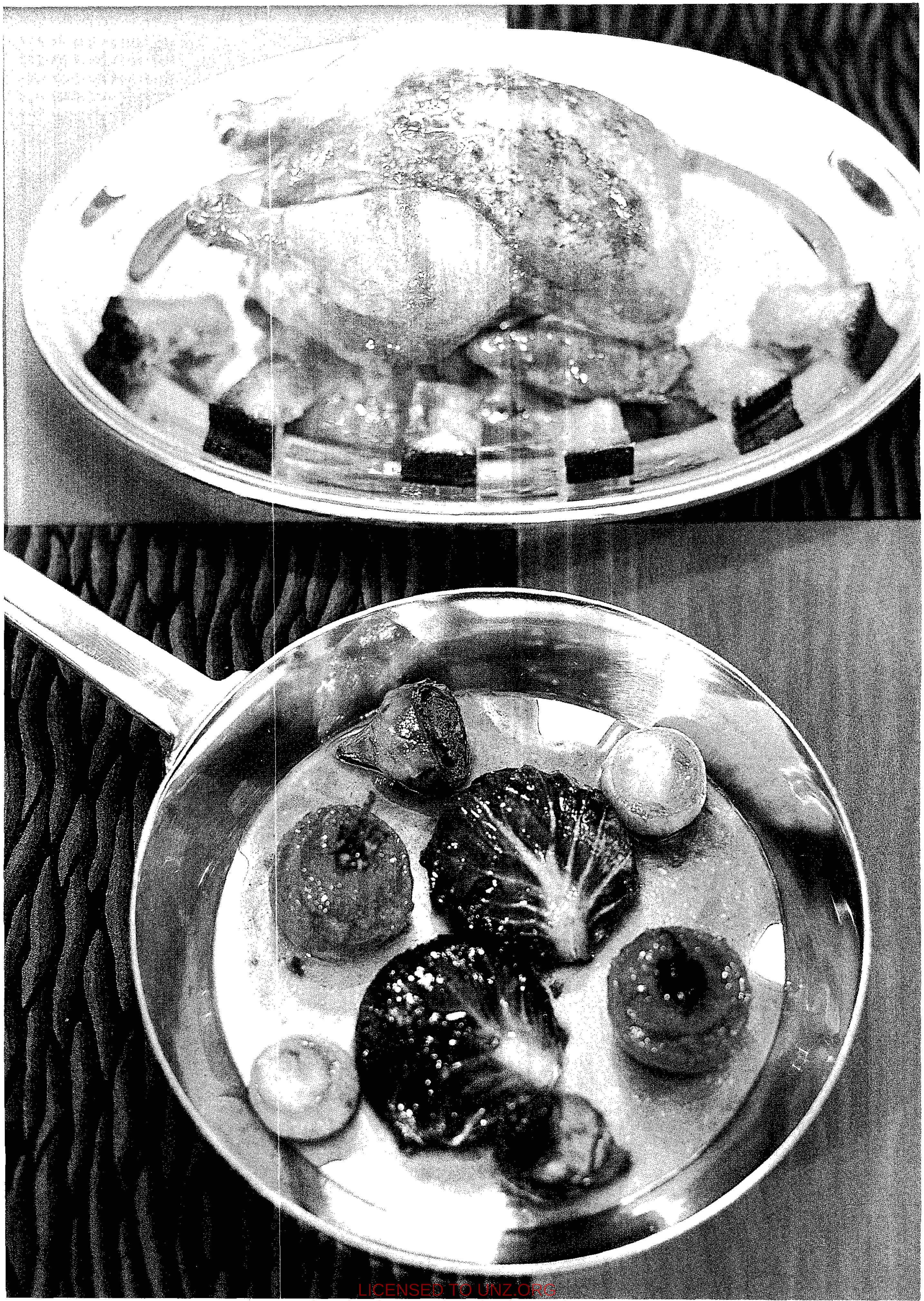
STYLING BY BASIA ZAMORSKA/JUDY CASEY; HAIR BY ROBERTO DI CUIA/DE FACTO; MAKEUP BY GRAZIA RIVERDITI FOR NARS; JEAN TOP BY FILTH MART.

2001 best of new york

EDITED BY
JEREMY GERARD
AND
MICHAEL STEELE

Asked what's so great about living in Manhattan, Queens-born actress Drea de Matteo initially draws a blank: "I'm such a typical New Yorker, I take it all for granted," she says. Of course, just like a *typical New Yorker,* she proceeds to spout a long list of opinions. Best restaurant? "I'd have to say Peasant on Elizabeth Street, because they let you smoke as much as you want." If you think that sounds a little like Adriana, the high-heeled Jersey mob moll she plays on *The Sopranos,* De Matteo will quickly point out that she and her character are *not* one and the same. ("A lot of people don't realize I'm *acting.*") Whereas Adriana lives for her Versace and Prada, De Matteo's tastes are a bit more, shall we say, eclectic—in fact, Drea and her boyfriend own Filth Mart, the East Village clothing store that specializes in rock-and-roll T-shirts and denim (see page 64), already immortalized in Jay-Z's "I Just Wanna Love U (Give It 2 Me)" ("Filth Mart jeans, take that off"). But whether you're the type to prefer a midriff-baring Led Zep tee or more of a chunky-Prada-loafer sort, we guarantee that this year's edition of Best of New York—an equal mix of high-end luxury and cheap, recession-proof thrills—is an offer you won't be able to refuse.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY FIROOZ ZAHEDI



Let's Dish

How can you not love eating in a city driven to satisfy every craving, from perfect roast chicken to sublime sushi to architecturally astonishing panini?

PHOTOGRAPH BY KENNETH CHEN

Aperitif

★ D'ARTAGNAN, THE ROTISSERIE
152 EAST 46TH STREET
212-687-0300

An aperitif should whet the appetite, not extinguish it. It should be light-bodied, low in alcohol, and dry—a prelude to the meal, or, better yet, a libationary preview. The Armagnac-based aperitifs at D'Artagnan are as thoroughly Gascon as the apple croustade and the duck-enriched garbure. The pousse rapière blends Armagnac liqueur with sparkling wine; according to co-owner Ariane Daguin, it's the first thing you're offered when you enter a Gascon house. Equally authentic is the vin d'orange, a white Côtes de Gascogne infused with fresh orange, orange zest, sugar, and Armagnac blanc, the potent indigenous eau de vie. "All the grandmothers make it," says Daguin, who monitored the maturation of her homemade wine sip by citric sip. It's a tough job, but in the absence of any Gascon grandmothers, someone's got to do it.

* * *

Roast Chicken

★ ALAIN DUCASSE
155 WEST 58TH STREET
212-265-7300

Ordering the roast chicken at Ducasse requires a bit of resolve. You've come, after all, for the most exquisite cuisine imaginable, for the ingenious assemblage of the finest ingredients, for a choice of thirteen bottled waters—and so, presumably, has your dining partner, whom you'll have to persuade to forgo fantasies of line-caught striped bass with citrus fondue, since the chicken feeds two. And later, you may have to defend your decision to your annoying foodie friends: "Who," they'll ask, "goes to the most expensive prix fixe restaurant in the city and orders chicken?" Anyone, you answer, who craves the juiciest, most delicately flavored fowl—a milk-fed poularde, actually, raised on a small Pennsylvania farm—with herbs stuffed under the skin, spit-roasted to a golden crispness, and served over toasted, garlic-rubbed country bread that soaks up the precious pooled juices. Don't stop there. Tell them about the elegant presentation and tableside carving. Taunt them with tales of the accompanying trio of roasted vegetables—a perfect tomato, an onion, and an artichoke, variously stuffed with herbs, Parmesan, and tapénade. You'll leave them wondering how M. Ducasse manages to sell anything else. For a slightly less lofty but nevertheless succulent rotisserie bird, we go to Pio Pio (84-13 Northern Boulevard, Queens; 718-426-1010). The $26 combination platter includes a whole savory chicken, rice and beans, plaintains, and fries, but, alas, no post-meal lollipops.

Croque Monsieur

★ PAYARD PATISSERIE & BISTRO
1032 LEXINGTON AVENUE, BETWEEN
73RD AND 74TH STREETS
212-717-5252

There are two schools of thought behind the croque monsieur. The simplest, most common version of this popular French snack, which has been showing up on Francophile menus all over town, is not that different from your standard-issue American classic, the grilled ham and cheese. But a true croque monsieur requires a béchamel sauce, which is how François Payard does it. His croque monsieur, based on his grandfather's recipe, is layered with jambon de Paris, Swiss Gruyère, and a rich béchamel sauce, encased between slices of toasted white bread, and topped with more béchamel and grated Gruyère. It arrives straight from the oven—the cheese bubbling and golden-brown, melting over the sides of the bread, and with a rich, creamy center.

* * *

Artichoke

★ CONVIVIUM
68 FIFTH AVENUE, BROOKLYN
718-857-1833

The artichoke may be the quintessential New York vegetable: tough on the outside, with lots of seemingly impenetrable layers obscuring the soft, sweet heart. Years ago, when Sandro Fioriti brought crispy crackling carciofi alla giudea out of the Roman Jewish ghetto and onto the plates of adoring New Yorkers, artichoke lovers rejoiced. (He still serves it at his Chelsea trattoria Sandro's; few do the fried and flattened flower better.) But there have always been warring factions of artichoke eaters: the patient peelers and dippers, for instance, delaying gratification with each increasingly softer leaf, and the stuffing buffs, for whom the plant is nothing more than a sturdy vehicle for oil-soaked, garlic-suffused bread crumbs. We side with chef Jody Williams of Convivium, a romantic Mediterranean haunt in Park Slope. For her traditional carciofi alla romana, she strips a pair of jumbo artichokes to the succulent core, braises them until fleshily tender, and perches them in a pool of olive oil, white wine, garlic, and fresh mint that'll have you reaching for the basket of crusty brick-oven bread again and again.

Suckling Pig

★ MEIGAS
350 HUDSON STREET; 212-627-5800

Not so long ago, finding good suckling pig in Manhattan was about as easy as finding a decent slice of pizza in Nepal. But recently, a handful of sophisticated chefs have been trying their hand at this tricky old-world dish. John Villa (Pico) rubs his baby pigs inside with sea salt and parsley, and Christian Delouvrier (Lespinasse) stews them into a rich, provincial confit. But the blue ribbon goes to Luis Bollo, the executive chef at Meigas, in TriBeCa. Bollo handpicks his piglets from farms upstate, dunks them in virgin olive oil, then cooks them for twelve hours at around 135 degrees. After that, he sets the meat in a refrigerator for another twelve hours, roasts it for twenty minutes at high heat before serving, and accentuates the slow-cooked flavor with a basting of honey and red wine. The result is the filet mignon of pigs, a melting, smoky confection with a brittle, orange skin like Peking duck. The dish is so succulently rich that you may want to eat it like Peking duck, too, in delicate little slivers, with help from your friends.

Midtown Express: The Best Takeout Lunches

WHERE IT IS	WHAT IT COSTS	WHY YOU WANT IT
Salad Tossed 30 Rockefeller Plaza 212-218-2525	Salads, $7.95-$14.95; sandwiches, $6.95-$8.95	Fresh ingredients—we're talking actual red, sweet cherry tomatoes—that change seasonally. Also four-star sandwiches like grilled flank steak and onions on a baguette and a new take on tuna with sun-dried cherries and jícama.
Gourmet Fresco on the Go 40 E. 52nd St. 212-754-2700	Pasta, $7.50-$9; salads, $5-$10.95; sandwiches, $6.50-$9.95	You'll forgo your no-carb pledge after you feast your eyes on the cheesy lasagna. We like the salads—chicken cobb, southwestern—as well as the grilled pizzas. Suddenly, ricotta cheesecake at lunch seems like a good idea.
Healthy Blanche's Organic Cafe 22 E. 44th St. 212-599-3445	Juices, $4-$8; hot plates, $10.50; salads, $10 per pound	Satisfies both the seitan-eating, soy-milk-drinking crowd as well as the merely wellness-minded looking for grilled catfish, steamed veggies, or scrambled tofu. Juices are tellingly titled: Are you a Toxic Avenger or a Beauty School?
Greasy Spoon The Prime Burger 5 E. 51st St. 212-759-4729	Plain burgers, $3.50; grilled cheese, $3.95; side of fries, $2.10	Order the Primeburger Deluxe— two burgers plus fries ($7.50). Tell 'em you want yours made "from scratch." It's the secret password to cholesterol heaven.
Soup & Sandwich Mike's Take-Away Grand Central 212-983-6453	Soup from $4.28; salads from $3.95; sandwiches from $6.95	What started as a pushcart on 45th and Vanderbilt is now a full-blown movement. Savory soups (tajine of chicken with couscous is our favorite), salads, and sandwiches draw followers from their cubicles like editors to a sample sale.

* * *

Croissant

★ LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN
100 GRAND STREET
212-625-9009
1131 MADISON AVENUE,
NEAR 84TH STREET
212-327-4900

When it comes to croissants, the bigger the mess of flaky crumbs covering your floor, your table, yourself, the better. They should be light, moist and airy inside, and, of course, taste and smell of fresh butter. This much we knew. What we didn't realize until we saw Pierre Hermé, France's premier pastry chef, conducting a televised taste test, is how a well-made croissant should *sound*. "When you tear it," he said, "it should cry." Well, you can't just go into any bakery—we soon discovered—and start squeezing the croissants as if they were rolls of Charmin. So we did a blind test of our own. After carefully smelling, tasting—and listening—to twelve croissants from the city's best pastry shops, we had a clear winner: the beautifully textured croissant from Le Pain Quotidien—the very same one, coincidentally, that Hermé had picked ($1.75). It has a nice, uniformly dark caramel color, with almost burnt edges. It's delicately crisp and leafily layered like a Farrah Fawcett hairdo on the outside, and deliciously buttery, almost cotton-candy-tender when you bite into it. To our untrained ears, the sound it makes when you tear it is more a crusty crackling than an actual whimper. But to Hermé, at least, Le Pain Quotidien's croissant cries like a baby.

* * *

Steak

★ STRIP HOUSE
13 EAST 12TH STREET
212-328-0000

Some people would say Strip House isn't a real steakhouse because the waiters aren't surly and chef David Walzog cares as much about the sides as about the main attraction. Go ahead, be abused across the river. But you won't find a better steak anywhere than the $58 double-cut New York strip served in this aptly bloodred beef den. You crunch

PHOTOGRAPHED BY EVAN SKLAR

OMA GOSH! Open up and say *omakase* at Taka.

through a slightly salty, exquisitely seasoned crust into the tenderest, most mouth-fillingly flavorful beef imaginable. Add a hot little igloo of potatoes fried in goose fat, and perfect spinach in truffled cream, and you'll never suffer the surly fools again. There's also something to be said for those expense-account franchises that have been popping up like milkweed throughout mid- and downtown lately. You can count on them for huge, well-aged, precision-cooked slabs, but Morton's midtown outpost (551 Fifth Avenue, at 45th Street; 212-972-3315) is the best, not only because the $33.95 New York strip is so great and the carefully chosen wine list so reasonably priced (okay, *relatively* reasonably priced), but because it's much more intimate than the cow palaces. Finally, if you're unwilling to take out a second mortgage to beef up the whole family, Carmine's 38-ounce porterhouse (2450 Broadway, near 90th Street; 212-362-2200), sliced by the staff, is only $46—and so satisfyingly redolent of garlic you'll be grateful it's kin you're out with and not a first date.

Omakase Sushi

★ TAKA
61 GROVE STREET; 212-242-3699

When other people cry *"Omakase"* at a sushi bar, they mean, "Let the chef decide." When we say it, we mean, "Astonish me!" At first-rate midtown emporiums like Kuruma Zushi and Sushi Yasuda you get exquisite fish on perfect wads of vinegared rice. But there's something a bit ruthless and dull about it all: expensive jewels handed down by Olympian chefs to unworthy supplicants. We prefer the human touch—and a bit more theatrical presentation—and find it at Taka in the West Village. Taka is unorthodox in some respects—its sushi chef and owner, Takako Yoneyama, is a woman—but her omakase meals, reasonably priced at about $70 per person, are classic. A small plate (she makes the pottery herself) holds a seascape of perfumed giant clams nestled amid tiny raw oysters on the half-shell. The yolk of a quail egg on a clump of toro tartare is camouflaged by shredded seaweed: a little bird's nest. We love that she watches closely as you eat, because Takako aims to please, and her aim is always true.

Theater District Restaurant

★ TRIOMPHE
49 WEST 44TH STREET
212-453-4233

The best of the newer theater-district restaurants is Triomphe, as pleasing to the eye as to the palate, with intimacy that manages to be non-claustrophobic. Chef Steven Zobel's menu is original and choice. Seasonal appetizers include crispy sweetbreads with artichoke guacamole and pico de gallo on baguette toast, a velvety rich oyster stew simmered in vermouth cream, and intoxicated chicken livers braised in sherry and then pan-fried with three onions. Among the main courses, harissa-rubbed Australian lamb is cheerfully accompanied by saffron couscous, grilled eggplant, mango chutney, and yogurt mint sauce. The North African sauce embraces the Australian meat in global harmony. Striped bass, with jasmine rice, grilled leeks, ginger-chili marinade, green papaya, and mint salad, is a fish of a truly different stripe. Among desserts, honey-glazed warm apple-walnut strudel with crème fraîche and white-cheese ice cream creates euphoric unity out of complexity. And the gracious service matches the food. If you enjoy Southern Italian and like seafood, Babbo's bambino, Esca (402 West 43rd Street; 212-564-7272), offers more varieties of fish than you knew existed, prepared with originality and picturesquely presented. And among the standard-bearers, Orso (322 West 46th Street; 212-489-7212) remains, as ever, an airy, bright, but not garish place, whose Italian food is similarly light, smooth, and flavorous.

Prepared Food

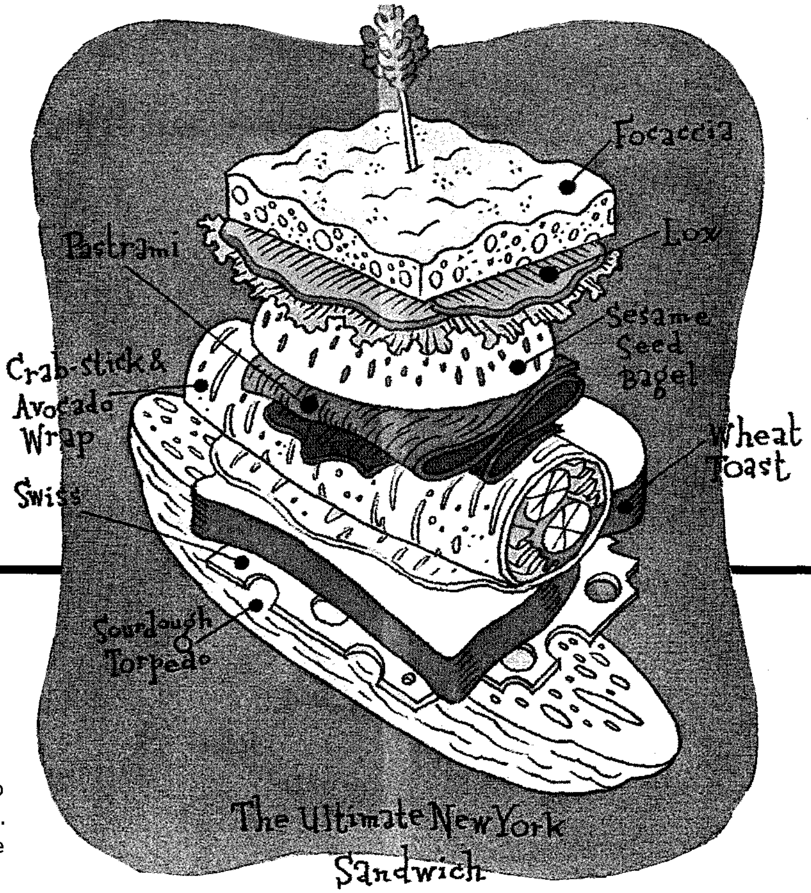
★ THE VINEGAR FACTORY
431 EAST 91ST STREET; 212-987-0885
★ ELI'S MANHATTAN
1411 THIRD AVENUE, AT 80TH STREET
212-717-8100

There are times when the prospect of having a few friends over for dinner can overwhelm even the best cook. What to do? Assure your guests in advance that you'll be slaving over a hot stove for most of the day. Then head to Eli's Manhattan, or the Vinegar Factory. Start with one of Eli's 38 hot and 9 cold freshly made soups—including gazpacho, New England clam chowder, and butternut squash ($10–$13.50 per quart). Follow with the Asian-marinated salmon with a crispy topping ($22.95 per pound), or the hearty veal osso buco ($19.95 per pound). The grand finale should be a little fruit tart ($12.95–$17.95) or the impressive lemon-meringue layer cake ($65 whole). Alternatively, the European-style food hall in Grand Central Terminal offers West-

Open Wide: The Best Things Since Sliced Bread

So many sandwiches, so little time. Unable to pick just one, we narrowed it down—to eight.

By Rob Patronite



WHICH 'WICH	WHERE	WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?
French dip	Sandwich Planet 534 Ninth Avenue, near 40th Street 212-273-9768	Before they got uppity, good sandwiches were simple and primordially satisfying—like Planet's French dip: just beef, bread, and luscious pan juices.
Chip butty	A Salt & Battery 112 Greenwich Avenue; 212-691-2713	You can't shove just any old thing lying around the kitchen between two slices of bread and call it a sandwich. Or can you? French fries on white bread sounds like an act of desperation, but admittedly, from time to time, we crave it.
"Pinocchio" sandwich	Melampo 105 Sullivan Street 212-334-9530	Alessandro Gualandi is a moody maestro, the David Bouley of sandwich-makers. The Pinocchio— soppressata, prosciutto, mozzarella, red-pepper dressing, and tapénade on baguette or focaccia—is worth enduring the occasional mood swing.
Chicken sandwich	Javier 70 Greenwich Avenue; 212-929-7878	Addictively garlicky, freshly roasted pollo asado on pan de manteca slathered with ajilimojilo sauce, aïoli, and deliciously smooshed in the sandwich press.
Bresaola, rucola, and grana	'ino 21 Bedford Street 212-989-5769	The prettiest sandwich in town. A seductively simple masterpiece of paper-thin bresaola, pristine lemon-splashed arugula, and grated grana, carefully layered between crustless Pullman-loaf slices. Dainty looks, huge flavor.
Falafel	Alfanoose 150 Fulton Street 212-349-3622	Rainbow's falafel is a soupçon spicier, but Alfanoose's is a rarity in the falafel trade: a tidy, structurally sound sandwich rolled like a burrito in a pliant pita. Only one or two napkins required.
Banh Mi	Nem Grand Central Terminal; 212-338-6810	Yes, it's a dummied-up, wussified beginner's banh mi, devoid of any unidentifiable Chinatown lunch meats, but the excellent crusty bread it's served on gives it a big textural boost.
Fish Sandwich	Mary's Fish Camp 246 West 4th Street 646-486-2185	Mary Redding's exceedingly fresh pan-fried cod, lavishly spread with homemade tartar sauce on a grill-toasted ciabatta roll, is nearly identical to the one at Pearl Oyster Bar, from which she recently parted company. But Mary must have kept a few secrets to herself—her tastier tartar wins by a caper.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEVEN GUARNACCIA

chester commuters an easy way out. A tempting selection of gourmet entrées is offered from the many stalls operated by individual merchants—we love the seared sesame tuna from Wild Edibles (212-687-4255).

Fried Chicken

★ BEPPE
45 EAST 22ND STREET
212-982-8422

Like two feet of snow on the ground and bullet-shaped tail lights, great fried chicken seemed destined to became a faded memory of lost youth. We'd crunched our way from Sylvia's to Bubby's and always come away disappointed—until Beppe. At this ocher-washed Tuscan newcomer, chef Cesare Casella dredges the bird with a lemony herb-infused batter that comes out softer and tastier than the usual coat of armor, leaving the chicken impossibly moist and shot through with mild but savory flavors we'd almost forgotten. The same batter is applied to fried green tomatoes and yellow squash, and it's all served with black-eyed peas and collard greens—the whole sunny concoction a tribute, Casella proudly explains, to both his grandma and the American South. It couldn't be more loving—or satisfying.

Fresh Pasta

★ CASSINELLI
31-12 23RD AVENUE
ASTORIA, QUEENS
718-274-4881

One week in Italy, and you think you're ready to execute such trattoria classics as spaghetti carbonara and bucatini amatriciana in your own home? It can be done, but first you'll have to learn to think outside the Ronzoni box. Pasta needs to be fresh (ideally, made that very day), light and tender (from hours of hand-kneading), and, if it's tortellini or ravioli, the filling had better be able to hold its own in a simple butter sauce. A lot of the "fresh" pasta you find in Manhattan shops is tough, thick, and dried-out, having sat too long on counters or in freezers. But at Cassinelli in Astoria, co-owners Nella Costella and Antonio Bonfigli, both from Italy, endlessly work their dough to produce 30 different types of pasta daily. When cooked, their delicate, soft-shelled ravioli and manicotti ooze light and fluffy ricotta. Eat it and weep.

MEDIUM-RARE Strip House, home of the perfect steak.

Offal

★ GUASTAVINO'S
409 EAST 59TH STREET; 212-980-2455

Until recently the term *offal*—which is defined discreetly in the dictionary as "viscera and trimmings"—wasn't used much in polite culinary circles. It took Terence Conran, who was a design mogul before he got into food, to bring new cachet to the consumption of gristly dishes like calves' brains and candied pig's trotter. Executive chef Daniel Orr even concocted an offal menu for the opening of Club Guastavino, the swanky, upstairs space in Sir Terence's new restaurant under the Queensboro Bridge. With the advent of a lighter springtime menu, a shimmery serving of calves' brains in brown butter sauce and caperberries is all that remains of this ambitious undertaking, but trenchermen of the old school will find it worth the trip.

New England Clam Chowder

★ PEARL OYSTER BAR
18 CORNELIA STREET; 212-691-8211

The key to a dense, rib-sticking, cold-winter's-day, cream-based chowder is the pork—salt pork, if you're a stickler for old-school Yankee propriety, though a good helping of double-smoked bacon will do, and that's what you'll find in abundance down at the Pearl Oyster Bar, on Cornelia Street. The chowder is constructed according to age-old geological principles. First comes the nourishing strata of potatoes and chopped onions, then a sediment of fresh steamers. Cream is poured over this foundation, and on its surface is a sprinkling of chives. Mingled among these layers are strips of savory bacon that complement the sweetness of the cream and give the chowder its rich, smoky punch. A dish like this is a guilty pleasure, and at Pearl it's best eaten alone, among like-minded chowder hounds, at the famously crowded bar.

Meze

★ KABAB CAFE
25-12 STEINWAY STREET, QUEENS
718-728-9858

You've had one baba ghanoush, you've had 'em all, right? Not so fast. While it may seem like all the meze in the greater metropolitan area comes from one central Middle Eastern kitchen hidden in the western reaches of Brooklyn's

IN THE NEWS Crispy cod and chips thirsty for vinegar from A Salt & Battery.

Atlantic Avenue, there are characteristics that distinguish the best. Freshness, for one. Aptitude with complementary flavors like lemon and garlic, for another. And a balance between hot and cold, cooked and fresh, tantalizingly spicy and soothingly refreshing—all elements of the meze table, an ancient spread the Persians first served to counteract the bitterness of their wine. Meze is nothing without good bread, and a stale crust can sabotage the creamiest hummus. So places that bake their own, like Tarabya and Turkish Kitchen, have an automatic edge. But when we want inspired, heartfelt cooking—when we want to be surprised—we head to Astoria's Kabab Cafe, where chef Ali El Sayed composes a meze plate like a jazz musician might, improvising on the ingredients he's got in-house for exotica like eggah (an Egyptian omelette), a salad of beets and apples, and fava-bean falafel. Putting your tahini-fatigued self in El Sayed's able hands is a sure cure for Middle Eastern malaise.

Kid Friendly (But Not Kiddie)

★ PEASANT
194 ELIZABETH STREET; 212-965-9511

No, there aren't any high chairs, and a kiddie menu is not available. In fact, you won't even see a lot of kids, since the clientele tends more to the single, still-living-with-a-roommate variety. And yet there is something about the gentle attitude of the staff, the cavernous space with its high ceiling, and the crackling crust and gooily great flavor of the pizza margherita that makes bringing a child to Peasant just the right thing to do. And while it's doubtful that osso buco con faro or seppiolini in terra cotta (cuttlefish) are the kinds of dishes your kid craves—though they should be two of yours—owner-chef Frank DeCarlo will do and make whatever is necessary for your offspring to be happy. The result: We have a niece who ranks the place up there with Disney World and the Four Seasons in Hawaii. And it's only a taxi ride away.

* * *

Head Cheese

★ BABBO
110 WAVERLY PLACE; 212-777-0303

Okay. This may sound less appealing than Best Velveeta Recipe or Most Ingenious Way to Disguise Mystery Meat. No surprise that a table of guests resoundingly declined to sample it recently at Babbo, despite an enthusiastic recommendation from the manager. Still, asked to send out an assortment of appetizers, chef Mario Batali included a dish listed on the menu as "Testa with waxy potatoes and thyme vinaigrette." It looked like pounded carpaccio with shards of potatoes mashed in. Scooped and spread on bread, it went down like the best spicy steak tartare you ever had. One person at the table had to know and begged the manager to tell him the recipe. "Certainly," said the waiter. "You start with head cheese . . ."

* * *

Fusion Restaurant

★ LE BERNARDIN
155 WEST 51ST STREET; 212-489-1515

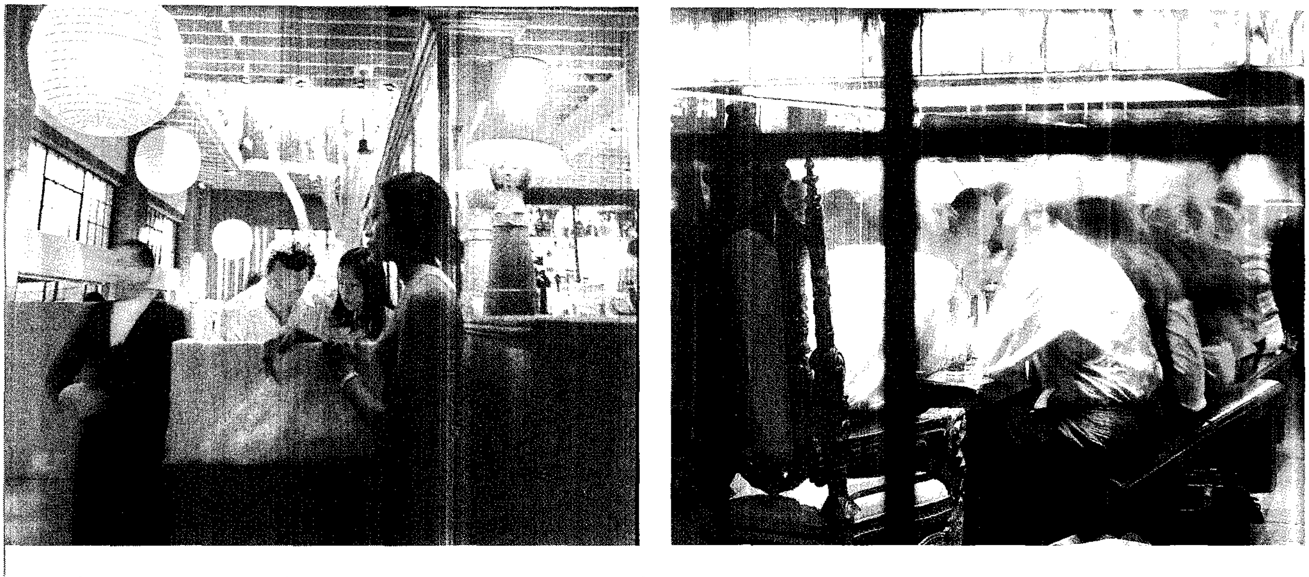
Forget those restaurants that coyly claim to be Thai-Norwegian or Chilean-Korean with a touch of Guam. Self-consciously crossing borders rarely creates something fresh and delicious. And these days, no chef worth his or her fleur de sel will hesitate to use any spice, any marinade, any preparation that will enhance his or her artistry. One of the most exhilarating snappers we've ever ravished was bathed in coconut milk. It was created by chef Eric Ripert at Le Bernardin, a restaurant founded on the skills and tastes Maguy and Gilbert LeCoze acquired growing up in Brittany. You won't find much coconut milk in Brittany. Nor a lot of the other ingredients the limitlessly talented Ripert employs. So what? His idea of fusion keeps exploding into something wonderful.

* * *

Fish and Chips

★ A SALT & BATTERY
112 GREENWICH AVENUE; 212-691-2713

Just as the London restaurant scene is finally getting a little respect as a highbrow foodie destination, Britain's most mundane working-class staple is making inroads here in New York. Fish

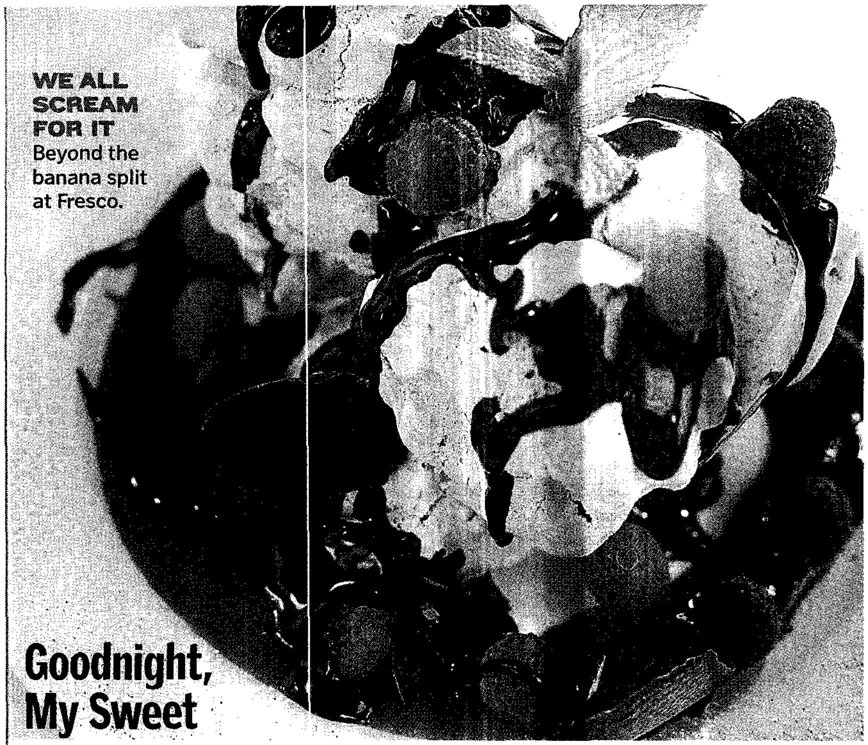


WHO LOVES YA? Checking out the crowds at Olives, left, and the Park.

Scene Cuisine

Man cannot live by bread alone—not when there are models to ogle and gossip to overhear. These new hotties offer delicious décor, people-watching, cocktail conversation—oh, and food. By Hal Rubenstein

THE PLACE	THE LOOK	THE CROWD	THE APPEAL	THE MEAL	THE MISTAKE
Aleutia 220 Park Avenue 212-529-3111	A glass-and-chrome sixties duplex Rock Hudson and Tony Randall might have shared. Rock would have lived up top, natch.	Flashin'-forward types from Lower Park Avenue. Downstairs, overcrowded same-sex tables; upstairs, tense third dates. But the food makes it worth the effort.	If they'd all shut up and chew for a minute, they'd discover Gavin Citron is a really talented chef.	Steamed truffle dumplings, smoked venison on birchwood, cardamom-cappuccino sundae.	Thursday night.
Olives NY 201 Park Avenue 212-353-8345	More spaces than a funhouse, sort of the Many Worlds of Todd (English) without the motorized boat.	Same crowd as at Aleutia, across the street, with an injection of testosterone: sleek, confident, and pleased with themselves.	All of Todd English's places have energy and shameless bravado. It's why critics always try to knock him down to size.	Octopus with chickpeas, herb-and-garlic-roasted chicken, oven-roasted pineapple with lime sorbet.	Trying to have an intimate conversation in the upholstered lounge. Toga! Toga!
Hudson Cafeteria 356 West 58th Street 212-554-6500	The dining hall from *The Lion in Winter* with a promotional blitz for the movie *Firestarter* surround the open kitchen.	An odd but congenial mix of over-eager young'uns who see Fiona Apple as a mature poet and tourists not sure what hit them.	Perfect for celebrating events with people you don't really know very well. Ignore everyone but the cute waiters.	Short-rib stew, macaroni and cheese (plain), banana split.	The snapper in carrot-orange glaze could kill our appetite for a week.
Lotus 409 West 14th Street 212-243-4420	The ultimate luxe bowling-alley lounge. If Ed's lane looked like this, more folks would move to Stuckeyville.	An odd but appealing amalgam of those who have a significant nightlife past and those forging theirs for the future. No one flinches at the bill.	Don't let the meat-packing address fool you. This is downtown without the mess. Jimmy Choo shoes rule.	Crayfish in cassolette, lobster bouillabaisse, chocolate pyramid.	Showing up at 11 P.M. Who let the dogs out? Literally.
The Park 118 Tenth Avenue 212-352-3313	A spectacular series of stage sets that instantly feel familiar, though you've never been to anywhere like them.	Oldies but goodies: eighties vets who made going out going out. Watch the masters at play. Or pick one up.	Because the scenery is terrific, and this is New York.	Wild-mushroom salad, porterhouse steak, banana beignets.	Trying to get a cab on Tenth Avenue after dinner.



WE ALL SCREAM FOR IT Beyond the banana split at Fresco.

Goodnight, My Sweet

DESSERT	PLACE	WHAT'S TO DIE FOR
Hot Chocolate	District 130 West 46th St. 212-485-2999	Velvety, though not too thick, far more drinkable than famed Angelica's in Paris, and just light enough on the finish to call for another.
Rhubarb-and-Mint Soup	Blue Hill 75 Washington Pl. 212-539-1776	One of those unexpected ideas that show up fresh as a breeze and go down twice as pleasing.
Chocolate Beignets	Le Brasserie 100 East 53rd St. 212-751-4840	They disappear faster than the illusion of the perfect blind date. Order them and hoard them.
Petit Fours (THE FROZEN MINI-POPSICLES)	Sea Grill 19 West 49th St. 212-332-7610.	If Ed Brown made them bigger and bought himself an ice-cream truck, I'd wait dutifully on the corner every day until I heard his bell ringing.
Chocolate Bombe	Chicama 35 East 18th St. 212-505-2233	Nobody loves big flavors more than Douglas Rodriguez. Yeah, I know it's a cliché, but the damn thing explodes in your mouth.
Gratin	Tocqueville 15 East 15th St. 212-647-1515	This year's new thing, it's not destined to become a classic because of poor execution. But the lemon gratin at Tocqueville has the vibrancy and grace of Michelle Kwan on her best days.
Ice Cream Sandwich	Fresco 34 East 52nd St. 212-935-3434	Good Humor take note: If there's a slab of frozen dessert that can put you in a better frame of mind, I'll eat it in a deep freeze. It's huge; it's even kind of gross. If you touch mine, I'll kill ya.
Dessert Bonus (SWEET-CORN ICE CREAM)	Orsay 1057 Lexington Ave. 212-517-6400	The roasted pears are pleasantly tangy, but the sweet-corn ice cream on the side is a scene-stealer worthy of Zero Mostel.

HAL RUBENSTEIN

and chips are turning up in restaurants all over town, but nobody does it better than A Salt & Battery. Any Brit would feel at home in this small, tile-lined takeout shop, where friendly Cockney chatter can be heard from the staff as they try to keep up with demand. A large selection of fish is on offer, the favorites being cod, haddock, and sole. The thick-cut golden chips nestling in the basket under the fish are thoroughly authentic—crisp at the ends and soggy in the middle—ideal for dipping in ketchup or sopping up a dash of malt vinegar. The fish itself has a crunchy coating and a moist and flaky interior. And—most crucially—it was still crisp after being wrapped in newspaper for a half-hour.

◆ ◆ ◆

Healthy Snack Food

★ EDAMAME
HYDRO GARDEN FARM STAND
UNION SQUARE GREENMARKET
BROADWAY AT 17TH STREET

Not too long ago, soybeans were pig feed. Now they're edamame, the addictive little peas in a pod that sushi bars have introduced into the greater culinary lexicon. Fresh soybeans boiled in salt water need little embellishment, but that hasn't stopped New York kitchens from gilding the lily; at Bright Food Shop, their subtle vegetal flavor gets punched up with chipotles and kaffir-lime leaves. But that's nothing compared with our personal favorite, the kimchee edamame sold most days at the Hydro Garden Farm stand at Union Square Greenmarket. These soybeans are grown on Long Island by a Taiwanese family who steep them in a sophisticated (not to mention near-lethal) mixture of hot peppers, garlic, and scallions.

◆ ◆ ◆

Cheese

★ ARTISANAL
2 PARK AVENUE, AT 32ND STREET
212-725-8585

Picholine, home to New York's most acclaimed collection of obscure pedigreed cheeses, has been bumped into second place by its newly opened sister restaurant, Artisanal. With nearly 250 varieties, Artisanal has the largest cheese selection in the country. Fromagier Max McCalman splits his time between the two restaurants, doting on his cheeses like a mother over her children. You are, as a result, unlikely to find a better fondue anywhere—or, for that matter, another restaurant with a fondue of the day. We like one of the menu regulars, the Artisanal Blend of Beaufort, Fribourgeois, and Taleggio. (The "petite" version, $20, serves two as a starter; the "grande," $38, three to five.) Order cheeses in place of dessert, or indulge in a flight of cheeses paired with wine (we once tasted twenty cheeses in a single sitting, along with six wines). And best of all, if you fall in love with something really stinky, you can buy a wedge to take home from Artisanal's retail shop.

* * *

Bar Menu

★ SONO
106 EAST 57TH STREET
212-752-4411

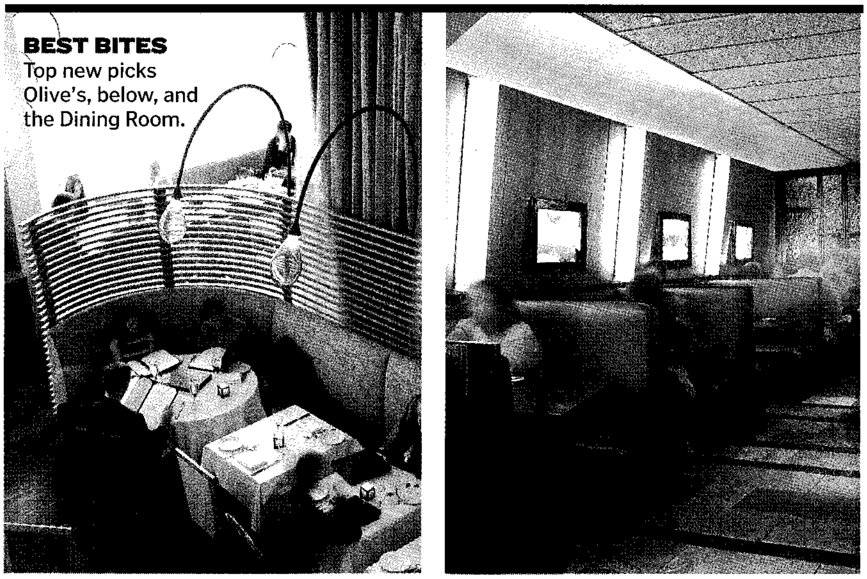
Lots of places let you eat at the bar; few offer the sort of special incentives we appreciate, like finger food that's more fun and less froufrou than what's being consumed in the dining room, and a democratic ambience that sanctions both spirited socializing and unmolested introspection. At Sono, the reflective Franco-Japanese haven, a trickling waterfall and artfully rugged furnishings make the undiscovered bar an ideal midtown refuge. Slender curried-chicken spring rolls and miso-dabbed crab dumplings are scrumptious and as visually striking as chef Tadashi Ono's hand-crafted ceramic dishes. Just the things to nibble with inventively Asianized classic cocktails like a kaffir-lime gimlet or a Bloody Mary enlivened with sansho pepper and wasabi. Runners-up: Merge (142 West 10th Street; 212-691-7757), for its "two-handed BLT," a monstrous sandwich that defies completion; its Mexican seafood tacos; its fried oysters; and its adorable tiny tinis in flavors like pear and Creamsicle. And at Café de Bruxelles (118 Greenwich Avenue; 212-206-1830), where the menu is as effortlessly appealing as the zinc-topped bar, the Belgian-beer selection is famously staggering, the burger deeply satisfying, and best of all—if you've been, you'll know what we mean—everything comes with fries.

* * *

Dining Counter

★ BRIGHT FOOD SHOP
216 EIGHTH AVENUE, AT 21ST STREET
212-243-4433

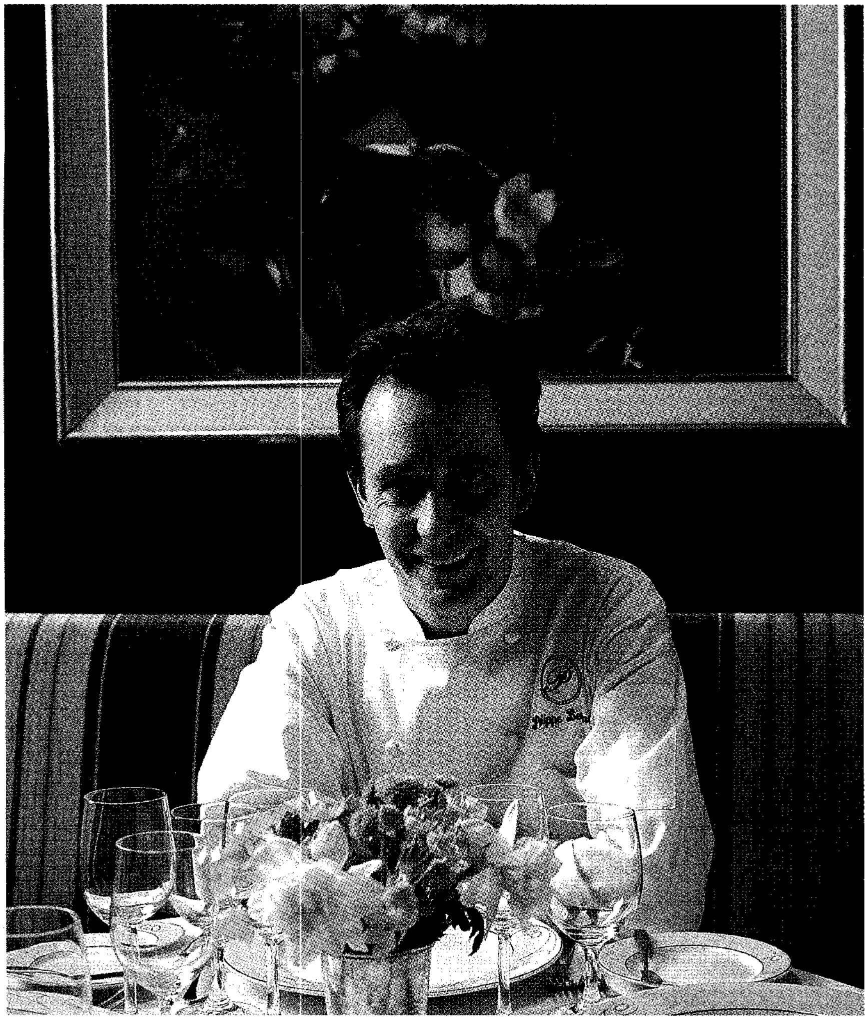
The kind of counter we have in mind is topped with Formica and faces the kitchen, so you can see your meal come off the line. There should be a row of cakes on pedestals, under faded, plastic covers. The menu should be artful but not precious, simple without being slummy, and you should be able to procure a decent breakfast most hours of the day. Choices abound, but the Bright Shop, which has been serving its own supreme brand of Mex fusion on a busy Chelsea corner for more than a decade, gets the nod. Sit with your morning cup of Joe and behold the construction of true huevos rancheros, with two layers of soft tortilla, two eggs, and a mass of beans, sour cream, cilantro, and melted jack cheese. For lunch, choose between the turkey sandpot (mole spices, braised turkey, roasted calabaza, and fresh mustard greens) and a bowl of green-chile posole with smoky cornbread on the side. There's a sturdy chili also, and a whole roster of puddings and cakes (try the five-spice espresso cake), laid out under faded, plastic covers, of course.



BEST BITES
Top new picks Olive's, below, and the Dining Room.

The Mouths That Scored

	Adam Platt	Hal Rubenstein
BEST NEW RESTAURANT	**Olives NY** The room's goofy and some of the culinary experiments are over the top, but the best of Todd English's dishes are superb. After reviewing Olives, I actually snuck back and dined there at the bar on my own nickel, a rare thing for any critic.	**The Dining Room** I don't know whether I'm stunned that anyone can make a sleek place of such quiet refinement on the Upper East Side or maybe just delirious that Mark Spangenthal is cooking six blocks from my house. Either way, he wins.
BEST FRENCH	**Jean Georges** Its Frenchness is not as singularly French as some of its grandiose competitors', but this is still the restaurant I'd choose if I had only one meal to eat in Manhattan.	**Le Bernardin** It's not really best French, or best fish. It's simply a series of the most extraordinary sensations your mouth will ever feel without your having to kiss back.
BEST ITALIAN	**Lupa** Some people like their Italian food fancy, but not me. Mario Batali's middlebrow trattoria is the perfect blend of gourmet simplicity and rustic style, and you don't have to call three weeks in advance to get a good meal.	**Babbo** Frankly, I've never had any food like this in Italy. Well, that's their problem. Mario Batali is the Thomas Edison of pasta and peppers. Discover and marvel.



HIS CROISSANT TO BEAR Payard Bistro's quiet Philippe Bertineau.

Wings

★ LE ZINC
139 DUANE STREET; 212-513-0001

As far as bar food goes, Sam DeMarco's "Buffalo lollipop wings" at Merge and First are hard to beat. Thanks to some skillful trimming, each one is a plump and tasty mini-drumstick, no mere inkling of meat attached to a lot of skin and bone. For takeout, Kumquat, Clementine's to-go annex, delivers reliably hot and tangy wings several notches above the competition. But the overall prize for piquancy goes to Le Zinc's Chinese-flavored duck wings. Chef Michael Sullivan poaches the wings in Chinese red cooking liquid until the precise moment before the meat falls off the bone, dredges them in cornstarch, deep-fries them, and coats them with a blend of salt and Sichuan pepper. The results are deliciously spicy-hot, not hot-sauce-hot. Three meaty wings that make their chicken brethren look scrawny by comparison come with a delectable, fermented-black-bean dipping sauce, proving with typical downstate arrogance that Buffalo's got nothing on TriBeCa by way of Chinatown.

Whole Fish

★ AVRA
141 EAST 48TH STREET
212-759-8550

If you love the sweet, firm taste of fresh seafood, there is nothing purer than the presentation of a simply prepared whole fish on a plate. The Greek *estiatoria* seem to handle this concept best—the catch so recently pulled from the water that it is displayed on ice, eyes glistening for all diners to see. While Milos (125 West 55th Street; 212-245-7400) without question serves some of the freshest whole fish in town and cooks it to perfection, it charges by the pound for whole fish, so the cost can be devastating unless you go for the pre- or post-theater deal. Avra and its sister restaurant Trata (1331 Second Avenue; 212-535-3800) also charge by weight, but the prices are a bit gentler, and the fare just as tasty. The fish is simply brushed with a mixture of lemon and oil, then lightly charcoal-grilled so that it's still moist and flavorful. Before it hits the table, it is superficially deboned, splashed with a ladolemono sauce, and dressed with parsley, oregano, and capers.

Unsung Chef

★ PHILIPPE BERTINEAU
PAYARD PATISSERIE & BISTRO
1032 LEXINGTON AVENUE,
NEAR 73RD STREET; 212-717-5252

François Payard must pay Philippe Bertineau in gold bars or know some dark, ghastly secret about the man, because it is astonishing that this gentle-mannered, unassuming yet undeniably gifted chef has remained in the kitchen at Payard Patisserie since its inception. Bertineau's sautéed rouget with Persian-cucumber rémoulade, potato tourte layered with goat's-milk brie, sautéed skate with curried cauliflower purée, and braised leg with trumpet mushroom-stuffed loin of rabbit are first and second courses that wonderfully match the artistry of Payard's universally touted thirds. It is easily one of the best meals you can have on the Upper East Side. After toiling for others for years, Payard got to know something other restaurateurs don't about keeping staff. Or maybe he just locks Philippe up in the basement at night.

"BEST OF NEW YORK" CONTRIBUTORS

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SMITH & WOLLENSKY F D S C
797 Third Ave. (49th St.), 212-753-1530 23 18 20 $56

Now with outposts nationwide, Alan Stillman's "top-tier" flagship Midtown steakhouse, aka "Atkins spa", remains a cacophonous "big boys' club" that's perfect "for bachelor parties" and other "macho" rites of passage, and, as a result, is prime man-hunting territory for women; look for "damn good" "slabs of meat" matched with "big cabernets" delivered by "harried" career waiters; make sure you're "hungry, carnivorous – and flush."

NYC ZAGAT'S

Also in
Miami, Chicago,
New Orleans, Las Vegas,
Washington, D.C.
and Philadelphia.

CITÉ 22 20 21 $54
120 W. 51st St. (bet. 6th & 7th Aves.), 212-956-7100

"You feel you've been somewhere" after a meal at this "sophisticated", "business-deductible-dining" Midtown steakhouse; what's more, you "can't beat" its AYCD (all-you-can-drink) post – 8 PM wine dinner deal ("they keep pouring, no bad looks, no questions asked") – by the time you leave, you may not know which cite' you're in.

NYC ZAGAT'S

THERE ARE OVER 35,000 RESTAURANTS IN THE ZAGAT GUIDES.
WE'VE DONE A LITTLE EDITING FOR YOU.

MALONEY & PORCELLI 22 20 21 $55
37 E. 50th St. (bet. Madison & Park Aves.), 212-750-2233

Those suffering from "iron-deficiency" head for this handsome "manly-man" Midtown chop shop where an "out-of-this-world pork shank" and "monstrous" steaks sized for a "starving sumo wrestler" are consumed in a high-energy "hurly-burly" atmosphere; cheap it ain't, but you're talking "prime" top-of-the-bull-market dining, so "get your broker to take you."

NYC ZAGAT'S

MANHATTAN OCEAN CLUB 25 22 23 $60
57 W. 58th St. (bet. 5th & 6th Aves.), 212-371-7777

"Others come and go", but this "exceptional" Midtown "fish mecca" "deserves its rep" as dependable "port in a storm" and an "elegant" lifesaver when you need to "impress clients"; no matter how you slice it, be it food, wine, décor or service, when you come here you can count on "first-class dining all the way."

NYC ZAGAT'S

PARK AVENUE CAFE 25 23 23 $59
100 E. 63rd St. (bet. Lexington & Park Aves.), 212-644-1900

Neil Murphy continues to turn out "witty", "inventive" New American fare that draws a smart crowd to this East Side "oasis of comfort and elegance" with an upscale Americana look; though costly, it clicks on all fronts with "pro" service, a "beautiful brunch", "masterful" desserts and even a "memorable bread basket"; try the chef's table for an "A+" experience.

NYC ZAGAT'S

Also
in Chicago.
312-944-4414

POST HOUSE 24 21 22 $61
Lowell Hotel, 28 E. 63rd St. (bet. Madison & Park Aves.), 212-935-2888

There's "none of that dark oak and stuffiness" at this amiable Americana-decorated East Side steakhouse that "doesn't reek of testosterone" and makes "women feel comfortable" "delectable" meat (try the Cajun rib eye) and a staff that treats "everyone as equally important" fully justify its "expense-account" prices.

NYC ZAGAT'S

ONE C.P.S. – – – VE
Plaza Hotel, 1 Central Park S. (59th St. & 5th Ave.), 212-583-1111

This stunning reinvention of the Plaza's Edwardian Room as an Uptown (i.e. upscale) brasserie comes via steak and surf scene-setter Alan Stillman (Smith & Wollensky, the Post House, Manhattan Ocean Club, etc.) and a star cast including chef David Burke (supplying the right-on New American menu) and Adam Tihany (the spare but handsome rehab); though too new to rate, customers are already lining up in droves.

NYC ZAGAT'S

AMERICAN EXPRESS ® Cards

These premier restaurants warmly welcome the American Express® Card.

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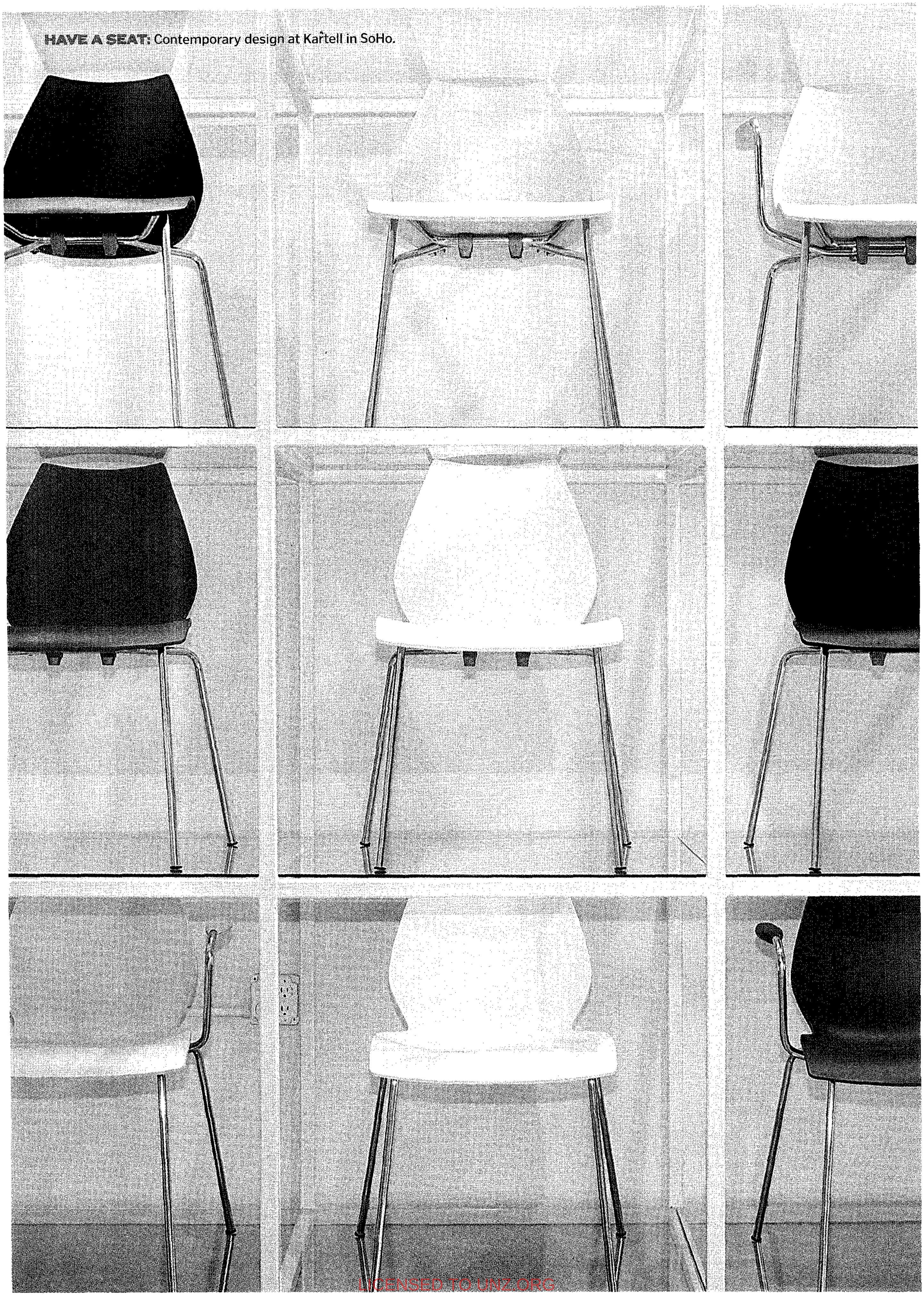
F–Food, D–Decor, S–Service, C–Cost. All reviews taken from the Zagat New York City Restaurant Survey.

HAVE A SEAT: Contemporary design at Kartell in SoHo.



Buy-Buy, Baby

Thumb your nose at the stock market with a pair of strappy Christian Louboutins, or yield to your jitters with a recessionproof (but perfectly stylish) tee from H&M; either way, we've got the goods.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROBERT WRIGHT

Socks

★ JOHN LOBB
680 MADISON AVENUE, NEAR 61ST STREET
212-888-9797

Every man reaches a point in his life where he must get serious about his socks. If you're still hitting the three-pair-for-a-dollar bin at your neighborhood street fair, you're not there yet. Some suggestions: (1) Buy socks that are sized; they're much more comfortable. (2) Avoid bright colors and patterns: No one—except maybe André Leon Talley—will ever accuse you of being boring because of your socks. (3) Exposing a hairy gap of shin between your sock and pant leg is the sock-world equivalent of plumber's crack. So either wear your pants very long or buy knee-length dress socks like the elegant ones at John Lobb. We like their streamlined selection of four functional colors (black, brown, navy, and gray) and two luxurious fabrics (cotton for summer and a wool-cotton blend for winter). The knee-length model won't slide down your leg; it's lightweight, narrow-ribbed, and, at $55, nearly as self-indulgent as a pair of Lobb shoes. For casual and sport socks, SmartWool—a Colorado company that makes exquisitely comfortable socks from a superfine grade of merino wool—can't be beat. A wide range of models, from "ultra cushion running" to "adventure hike," are available at Paragon Sports (867 Broadway, at 18th Street; 212-255-8036), and Orvis (522 Fifth Avenue, at 44th Street; 212-697-3133) carries a "casual dress" model, but that's an ankle-length sock, so watch out for rule No. 3.

• •

Jeans

★ BARNEYS NEW YORK
660 MADISON AVENUE, AT
61ST STREET; 212-826-8900

Looking for designer jeans that fit your butt and your budget—and don't go against your better judgment? As any hipster worth her Earls will tell you, you'll need to try on about a dozen pairs to find one that fits. This used to mean spending the better part of a weekend in a cab—from Diesel on the Upper East Side to Helmut Lang in SoHo, with at least a half-dozen stops in between. But now, the would-be Sass & Bide—or Earl or Roberto Cavalli—girl can skip the legwork and head to Barneys. The denim department has all those lines, plus Daryl K, Marc by Marc Jacobs, Fake London, and more (prices are from $85 to $288). Styles on the "Jeans Wall"—boot-legs, cowboy cuts, bumsters, tapered eighties numbers, you name it—are neatly arranged by designer, fit, and wash. The downtown Co-Op (236 West 18th Street; 212-716-8816) has a similar setup, plus an equally hip selection for guys, including everything from high-end Levi's to snazzy G-Star, DDC Lab, and Red Ear styles ($80–$245).

• •

Sundresses

★ HENRI BENDEL
712 FIFTH AVENUE, AT 56TH STREET
212-247-1100

So maybe the air's still a bit chilly for you to break out the sundresses, but if you're already daydreaming about your *Study in Black and Gray* closet blooming into spring colors, check out Henri Bendel's vast selection. From May through the middle of June, the store will fill a ground-floor boutique with hundreds of styles—from its own label and from designers like Nanette Lepore, Jill Michelle, Diane Von Furstenberg, and Betsey Johnson (mostly $150–$300). You'll find slips in every imaginable variation—delicate, bold, paisley, or solid—all of which are sure to complement your bronze shoulders come summer. For an edgier—but equally colorful—nighttime look, try Tracy Feith (209 Mulberry Street; 212-334-3097). We always love his silk paisley dresses, but this spring, the blue ribbon goes to the Wyamea—a flowing coral-and-white animal-print number, piped with turquoise and gold ($485).

Sunglasses

★ OLIVER PEOPLES
755 MADISON AVENUE, NEAR 65TH STREET
212-585-3433
366 WEST BROADWAY, AT BROOME STREET
212-925-5400

Summer is just around the corner, your Hamptons share is booked, and you've begun to sift through the stuff you lived in last summer. Can't bear the sight of your old sunglasses? Retire the Riviera-chic gold-rimmed aviators, stow your Anna Wintour–esque wraparounds, and stop by Oliver Peoples for something lighter, brighter, and preferably rimless. In the past, when the Hollywood crowd wanted Peoples's signature wild, candy-colored lenses—say in an orange-and-violet combo—they had to custom-order them. This spring, fans like Calista Flockhart, Jennifer Lopez, and Lenny Kravitz are scooping new, ready-made versions inspired by the zodiac (we want the purple-lensed Scorpio style, $420). Sounds too much like an investment? At H&M, lookalikes are only $4.50 a pair.

* * *

Linens

★ HARRIS LEVY
278 GRAND STREET
212-226-3102

This family-owned emporium may not look like much, but it's got many of the same luxurious linens with the foreign names that stores uptown sell for 20 to 40 percent more. The no-frills front room has the shop's domestic offerings, but the treasures are tucked away in the back room (where past Levy matriarchs baked bread and tended the kids). Bob Levy hunts for European mom-and-pop talent, whose work he imports directly (he was among the first to offer Pratesi in the States). A queen set of the shop's proprietary Jillian floral-pattern, 300-thread-count is a steal at $280. For anyone with environmental concerns or serious chemical allergies, the sumptuous offerings at Terra Verde (120 Wooster Street; 212-925-4533), a European-style "green" store, are safe for both you and the planet. Ask to see the luscious mineral-dyed linens from Indika and the organic-cotton bedding from Coyuchi (queen set, $268).

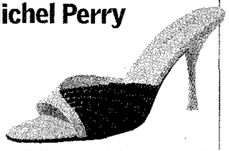
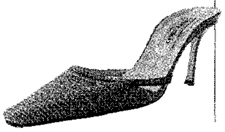
* * *

Leather Goods

★ JUTTA NEUMANN
317 EAST 9TH STREET
212-982-7048

This East Village shop (it's moving to the Lower East Side next month) is jam-packed with the soft, beautiful leather accessories—slouchy bags, buttery wallets, this season's giant belts, and sandals—that send fashion editors and designers reel-

If the Shoe Fits, Keep Shopping: A Step-by-Step Guide

YOU LOVE	WHERE	WHY	YOU ALSO LIKE
Michel Perry 	320 Park Ave., at 51st St.; 212-688-4968	Lean, mean, pointy-toed stilettos for the French vixen in you. Think killer heels, vivid colors, and plenty of attitude—spiky stunners in every sense of the word ($335 to $675).	**Charles Jourdan** 777 Madison Ave., near 66th St.; 212-585-2238. Jourdan's sleek Parisian classics come in many hues ($165 to $235).
Christian Louboutin	941 Madison Ave., near 74th St.; 212-396-1884	Satisfy your Cinderella fantasies with the most delicate, feminine, princess-worthy shoes around. Who else would trim with taffeta? (Typically, $350 to $650.)	**Sigerson Morrison** 28 Prince St.; 212-219-3893. Dainty sandals, mules, and pumps in lots of pretty pastels ($220 to $450).
Manolo Blahnik	31 W. 54th St.; 212-582-3007	Purveyor of the original $500 footwear, Blahnik raised the ceiling on what powerful women spend on stiletto slingbacks—not to mention glittery evening slippers ($445 to $1,000 or more).	**Stuart Weitzman** 625 Madison Ave., near 59th St.; 212-750-2555. Spindly boots and crystal sandals—all polished but never prissy ($145 to $300).
Sergio Rossi	835 Madison Ave., near 70th St.; 212-396-4814	Notice-me shoes for Bond girls who aren't afraid of things metallic, beaded, or pony-skinned. Spring's needle-heeled numbers could get you into trouble at the airport ($340 to $980).	**Via Spiga** 390 W. Broadway; 212-431-7007. Tarty, trendy Friday-night footwear—and inexpensive *faux* skins ($135 to $180).
Jimmy Choo 	645 Fifth Ave., at 51st St.; 212-593-0800	Made by and for London "It" girls, every one of these shoes is a conversation piece—think demure, gingham kitten-heels by day and towering gold ankle-wrap styles by night ($350 to $1,200).	**Kate Spade** 454 Broome St.; 212-274-1991. Polka-dot mules, rhinestone slides—the purse queen also has cute, quirky shoes ($185 to $225).

Photographed by Joe Scafuro.

ing. But it's the customer service—devotion is more like it—that really makes Jutta Neumann a destination. Say you like a bag, but the straps are too long: They'll make a new one to your specifications. And as for sandals, which never seem to fit anyone exactly right, they'll do the same. The range of colors is extraordinary, and there are as many styles as you can think of. Thick leather belts (think Michael Kors) run from $40 to $90. Handmade sandals average $200. Bags are anywhere from $175 to $500.

Plus-Size Women's Clothes

★ SAKS FIFTH AVENUE
SALON Z
611 FIFTH AVENUE, AT 50TH STREET
212-940-2279

If you wear over a size 12, you can forget about shopping at Prada and Gucci, but you needn't despair of wearing fabulous designer clothes. Salon Z, the entire tenth floor of Saks Fifth Avenue, is devoted to women who wear sizes 14 to 24, and it's one of the most elegant collections, plus-size or not, in town. The labels are world-class—you'll find Gianfranco Ferre, Marina Rinaldi, Anne Klein, and Oscar de la Renta, just for starters—and the service is a dream. For spring, we love Dana Buchman's sharp houndstooth blazers ($448) and a DKNY black leather jacket that's tough enough to make Hell's Angels weep ($598).

Sex Toys

★ TOYS IN BABELAND
94 RIVINGTON STREET
212-375-1701

Shopping for items to help satisfy those south-of-the-border urgings is an ultimately gratifying but often intimidating experience. Although it is a storefront, Toys in Babeland is conveniently disguised. But this place takes sex toys very seriously—offering seminars for the uninitiated (Sex Toys 101, S/M 101) and the experienced (Strap It On, Female Ejaculation) alike, as well as a plethora of toys and books and a well-edited selection of videos. The staff is friendly, extremely knowledgeable, and comfortable with questions about anything. They've heard it all; they know it all. Those who are extremely shy and want to avoid storefronts altogether have options, too. One is Toys in Babeland's informative and highly entertaining Website (babeland.com). Another is Eve's Garden (119 West 57th Street, Suite 1201; 212-757-8651). It's on the twelfth floor of a nondescript office building in midtown, and all purchases are placed in plain shopping bags. If you happen to bump into your mother-in-law on the way out, tell her you were at the dentist.

TALE OF THE TAPE: After you've worn a Borelli shirt, you'll never look back.

Men's Custom Shirts

★ BORELLI
16 EAST 60TH STREET
212-644-9610

As luxuries go, a made-to-measure men's dress shirt is on the lower end of the scale, hard by the necessities of life but still an indulgence, like a two-seater sports car. At Borelli, the entire shirt is hand-stitched, by one of 50 kindly ladies in Italy (her name is right there on the tag), from the 1,700 fabric patterns and 100 collar styles available in the store. Shirts start at $340 and rise to $625 for really expensive cottons and thread counts (they prefer a minimum order of six shirts) and take six to eight weeks for delivery. There are plenty of shirtmakers at work in New York, but once you've worn a Borelli, everything else will feel like life in the slow lane.

Kitchen Appliances

★ GRINGER & SONS
29 FIRST AVENUE
212-475-0600

You can prowl the outer boroughs for discounts (we retain a soft spot for the great prices and knowledgeable service at Drimmer's A&B on Coney Island Avenue) or the Bowery for its abundance of commercial ranges. But Gringer & Sons, in business in the East Village since 1918, has it all: high-end cooktops (a Dacor six-burner reduced to $1,075 from $1,341), ranges (a Thermador reduced to $2,650 from $3,048), dishwashers (a very cool Fisher & Paykel double-drawer model, reduced to $1,499 from $1,599), along with the de rigueur Sub-Zeros, Wolfs, Garlands, and Vikings. Gringer handles all installations, including air-conditioning. And you'll get straight dope about the quality of each manufacturer's post-sales service.

The Style Section

Shops with designs—and designers—for *your* living. By Joseph Giovannini

If you're looking for . . .

...common-sense modernism with a dash of eccentricity

★ THE TERENCE CONRAN SHOP
407 EAST 59TH STREET
212-755-9079

Modernist classics here include chairs by Charles and Ray Eames and Isamu Noguchi's famous rice-paper lamps. But slide into the captivity of the swoopy leather Loge club chair ($2,285) and its cousin, the Balzac ($3,250), and switch on the luminous stretch-fabric pillows called Light Volumes ($220 to $475) in the well-stocked lighting gallery.

...color, color, color

★ AVVENTURA
463 AMSTERDAM AVENUE,
AT 82ND STREET
212-769-2510

Carlo Moretti's champagne flutes are joyous confections of wit, frivolity, and color. These and other marvels of Venetian craft, including Renaissance-inspired goblets and harlequin vases by Salviati, are here; also check out the ethereal opal glass dinnerware and the stylish couture vases by American glass artists Young & Constantine.

...furniture halfway between traditional and contemporary

★ MARIETTE HIMES GOMEZ
506 EAST 74TH STREET
212-288-6856

Gomez culls antiques from London, Paris, and New York, and she has developed her own extensive line of "transitional" furniture equally at home in classical and modern spaces. A stretch recamier sofa, with its long, thin fruitwood carriage, is $10,800; the solid mahogany I-beam table is $3,200; and a charming stool with twisting bobbin legs is $2,200.

...state-of-the-art design and cutting-edge attitude

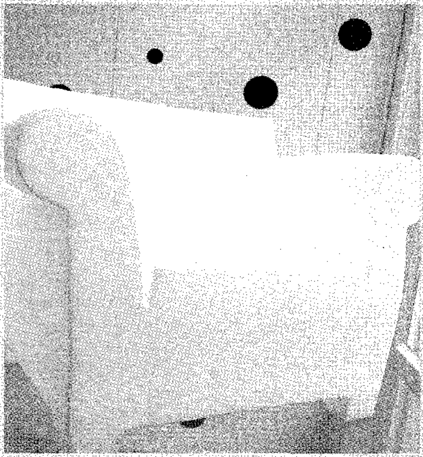
★ MOSS
146 GREENE STREET
212-204-7100

Murray Moss arguably displaced MOMA's design department as New York's arbiter of fabulousness, not to mention snobbishness: You not only can't touch but also aren't allowed to take notes. The tumbling chest of strapped-together drawers, "You Can't Lay Down Your Memories," is priced like art at $16,074, and the gold-plated Rosenthal dinner service (five-piece setting, $1,375) is a surreal misfit in the ascetic setting. But then Moss curates everything here to provoke a wry smile. The painted resin lamps by Gaetano Pesce quiver (from $200 to $4,000).

...modernist home furnishings and fun shopping

★ THE APARTMENT
101 CROSBY STREET
212-219-3661

Furnished like a SoHo loftment, this ground-floor store puts buzz into shopping and livability into modernism. Everything in this two-story abode is for sale. Those chairs hanging upside down from the ceiling are lamps by Hidden (and real chairs, for that matter: $520). The Summer Cloud lamp ($280, with adjustable squares of burn-proof paper) can be clipped into an infinite number of cumulus configurations.



BRIGHT ON: Club chair at Kartell.

...plastics

★ KARTELL
45 GREENE STREET
212-966-6665

Designers such as Ron Arad and Vico Magistretti heed the Bauhaus ideal of making more from less for the least. Simple, everyday kitchen ladders, indoor-outdoor chairs, and storage systems here foretell a nomadic future. Stackable containers made of translucent plastics in vaporous colors are easily portable. Philippe Starck casts recyclable plastic into a lightweight cartoonish sofa ($495) and reading chair ($365) in his Bubble Club collection.

...inspired contemporary lighting

★ INGO MAURER LLC: MAKING LIGHT
89 GRAND STREET
212-965-8817

The exploding porcelain chandelier at the front, Porca Miseria!, is $44,000, but don't let that deter you from venturing toward other pieces, like the hanging lamp in the spinning skirt, Willydilly ($130), and the charmingly behatted Don Quixote table lamp ($550). Maurer's experiments in pleated Japanese papers have produced a new Isse Miyake–like fantasy series (from $850 to $1,160).

...sepia-toned modernism, with echoes of the past

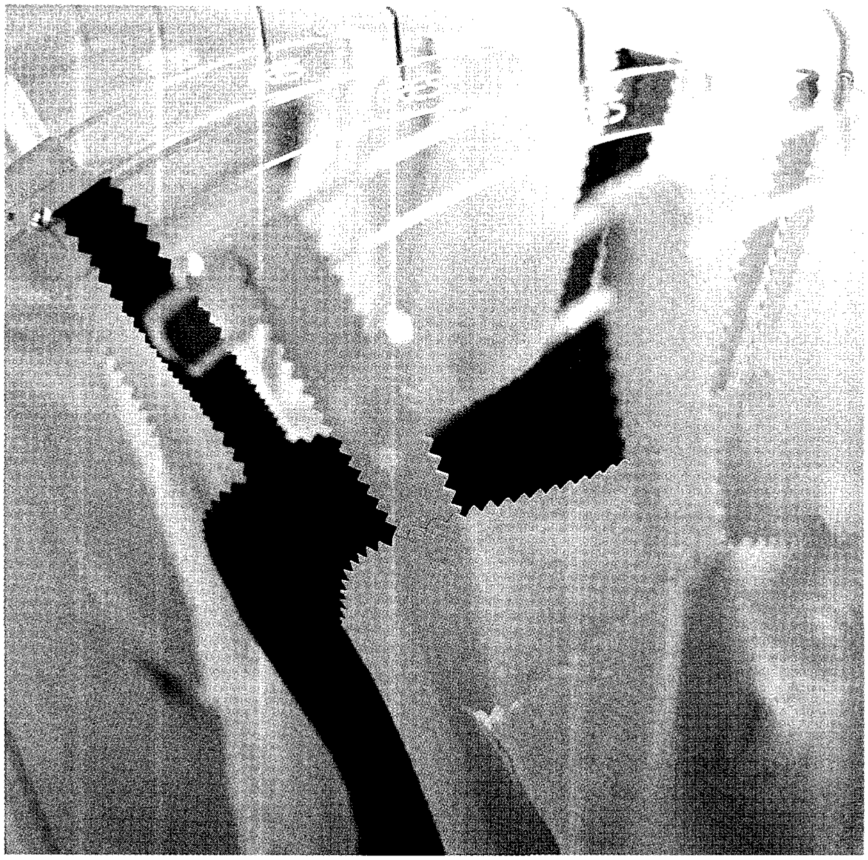
★ AERO
132 SPRING STREET
212-966-1500

With vintage pieces from nineteen hundred through the seventies, Aero specializes in a sensible modernism rooted somewhere in the square-jawed thirties and forties, like Thomas O'Brien's two-tone, leather-and-linen Alston sofa ($8,500) and Geneva club chair ($5,200). Aero also carries pieces by other designers, like a chrome desk lamp with a dome top on an adjustable arm ($375).

...livable minimalism

★ VW HOME
333 WEST 39TH STREET
212-244-5008

You can tell Vicente Wolf's just been to Asia because his spare, white floor-through loft is populated with Thai dragons, Chinese coral, Indian dowry chests, antique saris, and lingams. The African body masks and eighteenth-century Swedish chairs recall other trips. In support roles are his own handsome pieces, including dining chairs, outside mirrors, dressers, and a very handsome leather lounge chair ($1,411).



STRAP HANGERS: French bathing suits at Eres.

Beach Bag

★ FRÉDÉRIC FEKKAI STYLE DE PROVENCE BOUTIQUE
874 MADISON AVENUE, NEAR 71ST STREET; 212-583-3300

In the summer, you need that one big, all-purpose straw bag. The ideal? Something sophisticated enough to pass muster at work on Friday morning, summery enough for the Friday-evening Jitney, and just hippie enough to look cool on the beach all day. This summer's best comes from Frédéric Fekkai Style de Provence, the salon's free-standing boutique full of beauty products and bright, Provençal-style accessories. The Pampelonne Basket is essentially a traditional bucket-shaped French marketing tote that's been updated with bright colors (it comes in marigold, magenta, or orange raffia—all with leather trim), a single beltlike strap, and a leather bottom that keeps the sand out. At $290, it ain't cheap, but neither is that summer share. Above your pay scale? Check out an authentic Moroccan version available this spring from Back From Guatemala (306 East 6th Street; 212-260-7010). This basic, rugged, rustic-chic tote won't match your candy-colored Chanel flip-flops, but it will get you that Mediterranean look for a mere $35.

Women's Swimwear

★ ERES
621 MADISON AVENUE, NEAR 58TH STREET; 212-223-3550

Move over, Palm Beach chic. This season's best swimwear has a distinctly French *je ne sais quoi.* Parisiennes have been snapping up low-key, soft-as-silk Eres suits for years; in November, the company opened its first New York outpost, an intimate blond-wood gem on the Upper East Side. Fashion magazines quickly fell for splashier numbers like itsy-bitsy palm-printed bikinis, but the selection is actually heavier on sophisticated, grown-up solids—the kind just about anyone can wear with pride. We love the boy-cut bottoms (from $75) and triangle tops (from $100) and all the sharp one-pieces (halter-necks, V-necks, racer-backs, strappy-backs, backless, strapless, and lots more; from $155).

Men's Swimwear

★ VILEBREQUIN
1070 MADISON AVENUE, AT 81ST STREET; 212-650-0353

For years, guys have had two options: little Lycra numbers from the European fashion houses or the J.Crew and Speedo stuff that everyone else on the beach is wearing. No longer. St. Tropez's famous Vilebrequin swimwear company opened its first Manhattan boutique in November, and it's packed with manly, classically cut trunks in a staggering choice of colors and patterns. Look for everything from basic solids and stripes to Indian-inspired elephant prints, abstract florals, and even strawberry-, kiwi-, or pineapple-covered numbers (men's suits are $110). All suits come with handy built-in airtight plastic pouches to keep cash and keys secure while you swim. There are kids' sizes ($56) and matching beach towels ($60 or $150), too.

New Watches

★ THE ART OF WATCHMAKING AT BERGDORF GOODMAN MEN
745 FIFTH AVENUE, AT 58TH STREET
212-339-3381

Boris Lietzow, the German-born proprietor of this friendly nook inside the Bergdorf men's store, scours Europe for the watchmakers that aficionados and collectors seek. Look for wonderful, arcane models from De Grisogono, Bovet, Mauboussin, Parmigiani, and Jaquet-Droz. Linger over the hand-made cases from Cedric Johner or the egg-shaped ones from Mellerio dits Meller (one of the world's oldest watch manufacturers). Prices start as low as $600 for respectable mechanical styles, but the sky's not the limit on what you can spend here. If it's a high-end industry standard that you want (Rolex, Tag Heuer, Movado), but you can't quite afford the list price, shoulder your way to the back of the Jewelers on Fifth Exchange to Yaeger Watch (578 Fifth Avenue, at 47th Street, Booth 54; 212-819-0088), where you'll find the big names at lower prices.

Vintage Watches

★ AARON FABER
666 FIFTH AVENUE, AT 53RD STREET
212-586-8411

Ed Faber has steadily been cornering the pre-owned-watch market since the mid-seventies. He's a picky curator with a critical eye, and the shop's 1,000-or-so offerings range from incredible one-of-a-kind pieces to a huge stash of sought-after brands, including Rolex, Vacheron Constantin, Patek Philippe, Jaeger-LeCoultre, and Cartier. Some recent finds: an oddball Masonic-style sterling-silver watch from the twenties ($1,850); a WWII Omega with the telltale crow's-foot mark of a regulation British Army issue ($775); an extraordinarily rare platinum Gruen "Curvex" ($9,800); and a forties retro-modern 14K-rose-gold women's watch in an exaggerated cocktail style, set with Burmese rubies and diamonds ($1,650).

Hardware

★ THALCO
1462 SECOND AVENUE, NEAR 76TH STREET; 212-288-2680

You could pass by this tiny hardware store every day and see only the scaffolding, trailers, and massive iron rafters of the high-rise being built next door. Look closer, though, and you'll see a steady stream of supers, contractors, and East Side residents who'd never think of going anywhere else. Manager Jerry Cotler—a third-generation hardware man—knows he'll never win a price war against the Home Depots of the world ("I can probably walk in there and buy something cheaper than what I'm paying my suppliers for"), but then, no one comes to Thalco for the prices. They come because people at conglomerates won't remember your kid's name, or waive delivery charges (only imposed for orders under $30) because they "don't want anyone to hurt themselves carrying something extra-heavy," or listen for twenty minutes as you explain that problem with the thingamabob on your whatchamacallit.

Men's Sandals

★ COLE HAAN
620 FIFTH AVENUE, AT 50TH STREET
212-765-9747

Not more than a few humid seasons ago, the only guys wearing them were left-behind boomers and German tourists. Then came Tevas and flip-flops from J. Crew, and Russell Crowe in *Gladiator*; now you can't drop a drachma without hitting some air-conditioned footwear. Barneys covers the fashion waterfront with styles ranging from sporty (Camper, Miu Miu) to high-fashion (Gucci, Dries van Noten, Prada); Otto Tootsi Plohound (38 East 57th Street; 212-231-3199) gives you the street-style innovations from Yogi by Duffer, Pawelk, and Samsonite—yes, Samsonite. But our favorites come from Cole Haan with its updating of Birkenstock classicism and its rustic attempt at converting men to wearing closed-toed mules. If it's a choice, however, between Greco-Roman eroticism and men in mules, we vote for Spartacus.

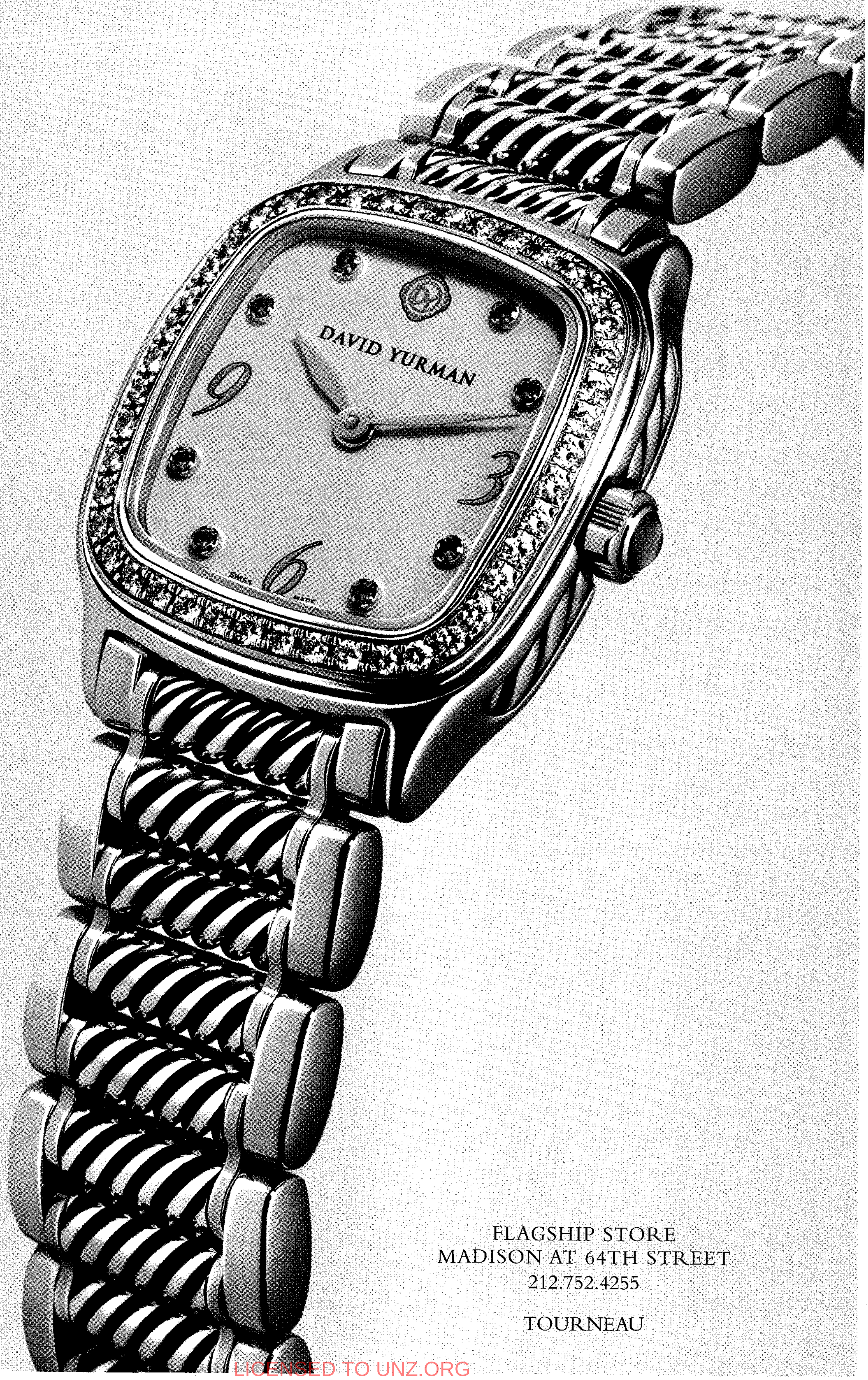
MY PARENTS WENT TO BARNEYS AND ALL I GOT WAS THIS LOUSY T-SHIRT
The Best T-Shirt

God Is in the Decals: The Best T-Shirts

THE SHIRT	WHO BUYS	BEST FOR	WHY WE LOVE IT
Filth Mart 531 E. 13th St. 212-387-0650 **Price: $18**	Hipsters and lapsed metalheads with fashionable girlfriends.	Slam-dancing at OzzFest; oyster-dipping at Lotus.	It's inimitably trashy, decadently *faux*-glam, and comfortably pre-worn; attention-getting yet humble, very Stella McCartney (minus the humble).
Bonds Barneys 660 Madison Ave. 212-826-8900 **Price: $25**	The best-kept secret of the fashion cognoscenti.	Rooftop kegger in Williamsburg; or sitting next to Anna during the Marc Jacobs show.	Australian for style: Perfectly priced, perfectly fitting, smart in the office, brilliant at the Park.
Carol Christian Poell Jeffrey, 449 W. 14th. St. 212-206-1272 **Price: $155**	Athletic, *American Psycho*-styled guy with good taste and gay friends.	Vegetarian BBQ in Southampton; making your co-workers feel underpaid.	A narrow crew collar, sleek shoulders, subtle yet distinguished stitching; 100 percent Italian cotton as soft as the Knicks' front court.
Helmut Lang 80 Greene St. 212-925-7214 **Price: $150**	"Only with Belvedere" Cosmo drinkers, chefs with eponymous restaurants	Casual Friday for the thinking man who can afford to let other people do his thinking for him.	The softest and lightest designer tee. And unlike Dolce & Gabbana and Gucci, no hideous exposed label.
H&M 1328 Broadway 212-564-9922 **Price: $9**	Male models at Sway; 12-year-old girls.	Tequila-poppers at the Jersey Shore; date with much younger woman.	Fun, comfortable, universal, and cheap—everything a T-shirt stands for.

Illustration by Steven Guarnaccia.

DAVID YURMAN


DAVID YURMAN
9
3
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SWISS
MADE

FLAGSHIP STORE
MADISON AT 64TH STREET
212.752.4255

TOURNEAU

© D. YURMAN 2001

INSIDE TRACK Shoppers check out the high-fidelity vinyl at Satellite.

Record Store

★ SATELLITE
259 BOWERY
212-995-1744

With their claustrophobic aisles, head-throbbing sound systems, and elitist clerks, dance-music record stores can make facing *High Fidelity*–like indie-rock fascists seem easy. But at the seven-year-old Satellite—which just relocated to a massive new space—owner Scott Richmond and his staff eschew snobbery for a more democratic approach, one rooted in the one-nation-under-a-groove roots of rave. "These two German house-music heads came to the store and said, 'I can't believe you stock trance,' " Richmond recalls with mock horror. "So I said, 'Don't turn around and you'll be fine.' " More open-minded consumers, however, happily take in the multitude of dance-music subgenres—everything from funky breaks to two-step garage—represented on Satellite's wall-climbing shelves. And the airy, loftlike space boasts an astounding twenty listening stations to take all the vinyl in, as well as a glass-enclosed foyer dedicated exclusively to CDs. "Tell me what your sensibility is," Richmond says, "and I'll play you a record you'll like."

Discount Shopping

★ NATIONAL WHOLESALE LIQUIDATORS
632 BROADWAY
212-979-2400

With the forecast partly cloudy, and a 30 percent chance of recession, National Wholesale Liquidators makes offers you can't refuse: 20 to 40 percent off retail on everything from Hoover vacuums to Q-Tips to Carr's Crackers to Pez dispensers. It's thrift without the sacrifice; on the store's three floors of bargains, you won't see a single dented can, irregular sock, or disturbingly imminent expiration date. You might, however, find items whose *cultural* expiration dates have long since passed, like the Star Wars Episode I Sith Droid Attack Game (originally $44.95, here just $9.97), or products that make special demands on your language and metric skills, such as a 300-gram box of Kellogg's Flocons de Maïs Givrés (Frosted Flakes) for $2.50. But for every leopard-print toilet seat ($17.97) or I LOVE YOU MOM wall clock ($12.97), NWL sells hundreds of housewares, groceries, health and beauty aids, and fancy chocolates that are not to be resisted by bears or by bulls.

Vintage Shop, Manhattan

★ AMARCORD VINTAGE FASHION
84 EAST 7TH STREET
212-614-7133

The airy, sparkling Amarcord Vintage Fashion houses pristine and well-priced items handpicked by owners Patti Bordoni and Marco Liotta. The Italian expatriates collect much of their stock—which includes non-designer prize finds, as well as pieces by Roberto Cavalli, Roslein, Versace, Cacharel, and Valentino—in their home country, via secret sources and word-of-mouth. (In Italy, "there are no auctions, no thrift shops. Nobody knows what the word *vintage* means," says Liotta. "They call it *usato*—as in used.") Open since December, Amarcord quickly found favor with the fashion troops: "Patti and Marco have impeccable taste," says stylist Signe Yberg. "They don't do trashy glam," she adds. "They do sophisticated lady."

• •

Vintage Shop, Brooklyn

★ BROOKLYN PUBLIC COUTURE
198 COURT STREET
718-237-8508

In the eighties, Joan Judge haunted thrift shops and the famous couture auctions at William Doyle Galleries, where, she says, she'd buy "anything that was beautiful" that she could afford. Now she sells these treasures at Brooklyn Public Couture, a sliver of a shop brimming with hats, handbags, silk lingerie, luggage, and clothing from 1900 on—many items with the auction or shop tags still attached. Judge has a particular love for *haute* clothes from the eighties and early nineties: among her current items, a Thierry Mugler raw-silk black-and-white empire-waist dress not unlike Julia Roberts's Oscar gown ($600) and a red velvet strapless Jean Paul Gaultier number made sporty by snap pockets and detachable bustle ($800).

• •

Disposable Club Gear

★ JOYCE LESLIE
20 UNIVERSITY PLACE
212-505-5419

Nightlife can be hazardous to your clothes—a busy evening's sweat, spills, and errant cigarettes will turn sequins into rags by dawn. Our advice: Save the Gucci and Marc Jacobs for cocktail parties, and pick up your sexy, stretchy,

PHONE 212 7870100
720 FIFTH AVENUE

just-this-side-of-slutty club gear at Joyce Leslie. You can find dirt-cheap designer knockoffs here—everything from *faux*-Helmut to mock Miu Miu--before the originals even hit the stores. This season, look for the greatest hits of the eighties: bright, zipper-festooned pleather jackets (from $9.99), asymmetrical half-shirts, and a one-shouldered, camouflage-print mini-dress, for starters. Sure, they'll be passé by fall—but you'll have trashed them by then anyway.

Digital Video

★ B&H PHOTO-VIDEO
420 NINTH AVENUE, AT 33RD STREET
212-444-6615

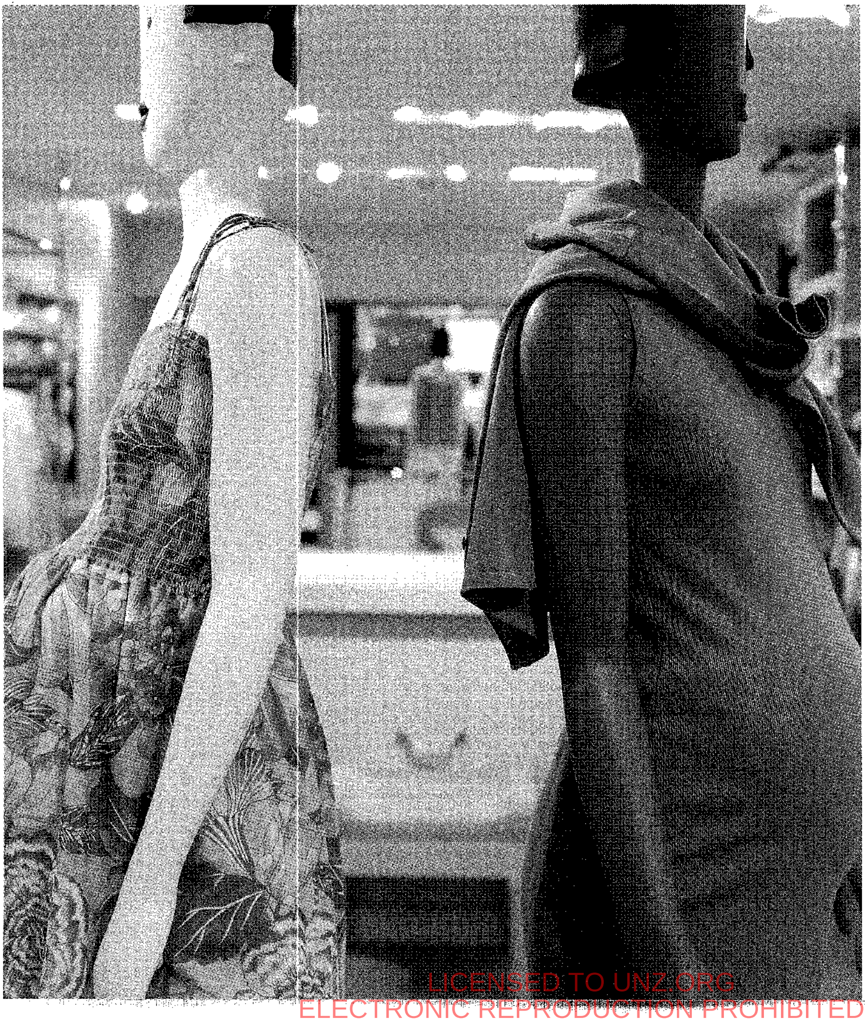
Ever try to ask an electronics-store clerk the real difference between Sony and Canon digital cameras? What a "mega-pixel CCD" is? Or when it's okay to use the built-in sound equipment installed on your camcorder, and when you should switch to a shotgun or super-directional mike? At your average chain electronics store, you'll be met with a) a blank stare, b) specious bluster, or c) "Let me go ask my manager." Not at B&H Photo-Video, the legendary photo megastore that now also rules the digital realm. Prices here are generally as low as you'll find anywhere in town, but B&H throws in real, no-nonsense expertise. You may not want to immediately invest in a fluid-head or pan-and-tilt tripod or an elaborate tungsten lighting rig to go with your new DV camcorder, but at least you'll know where to go when you decide to upgrade your pretensions from early *Cops* to late Spielberg.

Mod Stationery

★ IS: INDUSTRIES STATIONERY STORE
136 WEST 17TH STREET
212-620-0300

Drew Souza considers his store, Industries Stationery, to be a kind of couture service for stationery. And indeed, the choices are modern, clean, and design-driven. No heavy ornamentation here, just a very cool selection of papers, note cards (including matte-coated and metallic ones), and colors (its color scheme changes twice a year) more likely to be found in a graphic-design studio than a card shop. And the fonts—light-years beyond Times New Roman—make a very mod statement on whichever papers you choose. Six fonts are named after seventies sitcom characters (like Rhoda Morgenstern and Endora), ten others are named after drag queens (from Joey Arias to Varla Jean Merman). It's hard to pick just one. Résumé services are not available—so don't even ask.

HOT MAMAS Living "large" at Liz Lange Maternity.



Junk Shop

★ GREEN VILLAGE
460 DRIGGS AVENUE, BROOKLYN
718-599-4017

With the 26th Street flea market getting smaller to make room for more high-rises, and so-called thrift shops getting pricier by the minute, it's time to get back to basics—down-and-dirty junk shopping. For eight years, Green Village has been a secret source for many antiques dealers, interior designers, and, yes, vendors from the 26th Street market. Sidney Ober, proprietor of this 10,000-square-foot space, has amassed multiples in every category imaginable. Need a piano? He's got two. Sporting equipment, electronics, kids' furniture, housewares, books, record albums, bikes, sleds, "art," vintage trophies, clothing by the pound, and a box full of bowling balls—it's all here. (Shag rugs bought here for $20 recently sold on Lafayette Street for $1,800.) The caveat? Get ready to dig. While aisles are basically organized by category, it's no department store.

Chic Maternity

★ LIZ LANGE MATERNITY
958 MADISON AVENUE
212-879-2191

Maternity boutiques have been popping up all over lately. Pumpkin Maternity on Broome Street is catering to the downtown-casual approach and Mommy Chic on Mulberry Street takes a more feminine, flirty approach, and there are others thoughout the city, each with its own sense of style. But for location and one-stop shopping that encompasses the widest variety of tastes and styles, Liz Lange is the big mama of the bunch. Liz knows that women update their wardrobe with a few well-chosen pieces every season and has followed that principle with her maternity line. These are real clothes that allow pregnant women to dress as themselves, not someone who is pregnant.

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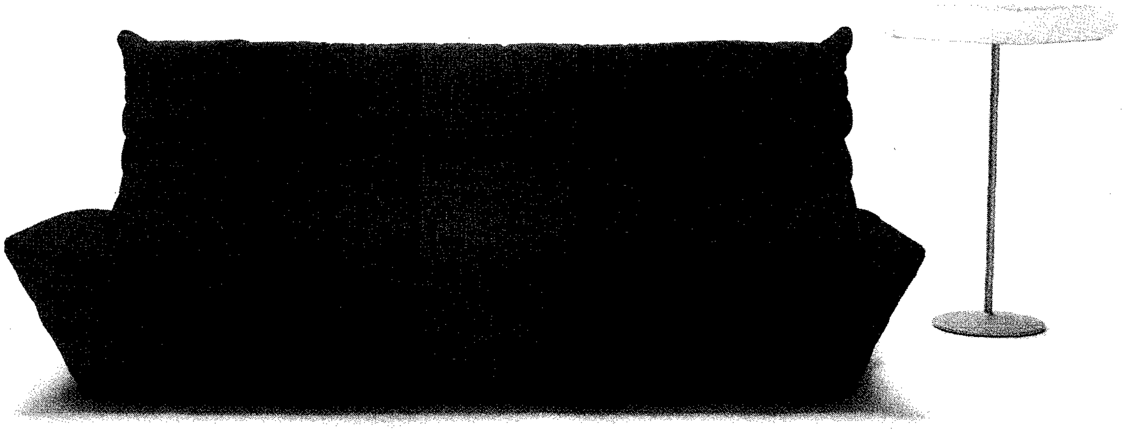

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NIGHT MOVES Liza Jessie Peterson at Joe's Pub.

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY STEFAN STUDER

Early Night Party

★ "LOVE AFFAIR"
THURSDAYS AT 7 P.M. AT CLUB MK
431 WEST 16TH STREET
212-714-7116

When most of the city is still struggling through its evening commute, house fans are packing West Chelsea's Club MK to work up a sweat to the sounds of D.J. MKL. Thrown by "Body & Soul" promoter John Davis, the weekly Thursday-night "Love Affair" party attracts dreadlocked Brooklynites, Japanese house fanatics, and track-suited dancers. Drawing clubbers straight from the cubicle to the dance floor isn't easy, so Davis added an Asian-themed buffet. But on a recent Thursday, most revelers seemed satisfied with MKL's brand of epic, orchestral house music as well as MK's spacious dance floor.

* * *

Cabaret

★ JOE'S PUB
425 LAFAYETTE STREET
212-539-8770

In April, the cabaret queens reigned: Julie Wilson at the Oak Room, Rosemary Clooney at Feinstein's, Christine Andreas at the Café Carlyle, Margaret Whiting at Arci's Place—each worth every cent of the many dollars you paid to hear them warble in those tony cages. And yet it's not just lower prices that make Joe's Pub "the future of cabaret in New York City"—as one duke of the demimonde says without qualification. It's the combination of spirited young crowds returning to the Joseph Papp Public Theater and the inspired eclecticism of the programming under the sensitive direction of Bonnie Metzgar and Wiley Hausam. So you may hear cellist Matt Haimovitz play Bach's Six Suites for Cello Solo one night, torchbearer and ex-Grizabella Liz Callaway singing her heart out the next.

* * *

Place to Be Scene

★ THE PARK
118 TENTH AVENUE,
NEAR 17TH STREET
212-352-3313

On a recent evening, Rupert Everett could be found lounging about on one of the Park's glossy banquettes—which, in this day and age, is good news to that certain breed of New Yorker who lunches on Cosmopolitans and dines on apple martinis. At a time when every hip New York destination continues to go for the dark and minimal, the Park's splashy retro aesthetic is a welcome standout. The main dining room and bar area is vast and colorful, a sort of *Brady Bunch* chic, with glazed teal brick walls and a 35-foot dracaena soaring toward a massive sunroof. If it's too clogged with models and gallerists, head for the Red Room in back, where more models and gallerists (and their bankers) sprawl on kitschy wicker furniture under crimson Chinese lanterns. Adjacent is the Solarium, a glass cube of a lounge with chintzy redwood couches and disco ball, made cozy with a fireplace. But go soon, and early in the week, for as with any place too hip for its own good, we've noticed an infusion of PATH-train pretenders on weekends, searching for that perfect glass of white Zinfandel.

* * *

Bar Where Nobody Knows Your Name

★ HOLLAND BAR
532 NINTH AVENUE,
NEAR 39TH STREET
212-502-4609

Bad day at the office? Been dressed down, looked over, or (gulp) laid off? No point in sticking around—better to sneak away early and slink off someplace dark and quiet to lick your wounds. Someplace like the Holland Bar, where they'll either understand you, ignore you, or both. Here the regulars come in two kinds: those who gaze silently into their drafts, and those who conduct loud, never-ending sports arguments despite the fact that no one's actually disagreeing. The bartender's manner is part biker, part kindergarten teacher, and he has a sixth sense for refills. Eventually, evening will bring the commuters, and night will bring the slumming hipsters. But you're safe. After all, even if they know you're at the Holland Bar, they'll never think to look for it by the Lincoln Tunnel.

South American Import

★ LOS AMIGOS INVISIBLES
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

In 1994, in Caracas, Venezuela, Los Amigos Invisibles started a "Super Sancocho Variety" party that took its name—and eclectic musical aesthetic—from an anything-goes Venezuelan stew of the same name. When the six-piece Latin funk band moved to New York this January, it didn't change its style: The flyer for the first edition of its ever-evolving fête advertises "house jazz funk disco bossa salsa merengue easy listening acid jazz drum 'n' bass." In addition to throwing the occasional party, Los Amigos—who used to play 5,000-seaters in their home city—perform their rubbery blend of disco, funk, and Latin music semiregularly at clubs like the Bowery Ballroom and the Village Underground. Those performances are more like free-form dance parties, with an oddball mix of record geeks and South American expats boogying along to come-hither grooves that borrow Beck's slyly ironic sex appeal. "You know a party is great," says vocalist Julio Briceño, "when everyone's kissing each other."

Midtown Gay Bar

★ BARRAGE
401 WEST 47TH STREET
212-586-9390

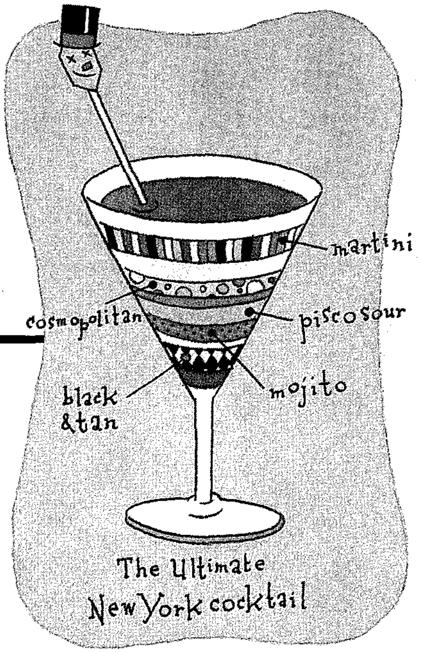
Barrage is one of several gay lounges to descend upon midtown recently—only a year ago, the only real option was Stella's (a randy collision of theater queens and in-your-face go-go boys). On the heels of the recently unveiled Chase (aiming for Chelsea-esque upscale pretension) and Hannah's Lava Lounge (working for a kooky, it's-cool-to-wear-your-fez-in-here East Village feel), Barrage's lack of any discernible identity works in its favor: The crowd doesn't know whether to be *bitchy* (Chelsea) or *wacky and off-kilter* (East Village). Stripped of these options, the people at Barrage usually err on the side of *friendliness*—which means it's a great place to go if you actually want to meet people, and a very bad place to go if you want to brood over a Stoli raspberry.

Gay Teen Party

★ POP ROCKS!
THURSDAYS AT 219 FLAMINGO
219 SECOND AVENUE
212-462-9077

It might be the only gay dance party in Manhattan that can make a 25-year-old feel overripe. The hugely successful Thursday-night event Pop Rocks! features a 21-year-old D.J. named Gerson, a seemingly endless supply of complimentary Absolut Mandarin, and numerous 18-year-old revelers who have been carded and braceleted and therefore can't drink any of it. At first, you might think the boys dancing to Britney Spears, 'NSync, and the Backstreet Boys have their tongues in cheek as well as their hands in the air—but this is actually an irony-free zone: That guy's bedazzled Britney tee isn't in air-quotes, the boy sobbing to Madonna's "What It Feels Like for a Girl" really *is* losing it, and the expats from grungy East Village staples

Mixed Doubles



MARGARITA
The Red Cat 227 Tenth Ave.; 212-242-1122
So many bar margaritas, concocted of generic tequila, sour mix, and triple sec, are overly cloying and have a mild chemical aftertaste. This one, made with Sauza Hornitos tequila, fresh lime and lemon juice, and Cointreau, and served with a slice of orange, never disappoints.

CREATIVE MARGARITA
Red Bar 339 E. 75th St.; 212-472-7577
The Rubyrita: Fresh blood-orange juice is added to Sauza Conmemorativo, lime, Cointreau, and a homemade simple syrup for extra zest.

MARTINI
Town 15 W. 56th St.; 212-582-4445
Try this version—made with Hendrick's gin and cucumbers and topped with Malden sea salt—and you'll never go back to olives. It's stirred with ice for an extra boost of viscosity.

COFFEE DRINK
Eugene 27 W. 24th St.; 212-462-0999
Skip dessert and indulge in a Montecristo instead. It's a warm mixture of coffee, Kahlúa, and Grand Marnier with a splash of triple sec and a hit of fresh whipped cream.

MOJITO
Pop 127 Fourth Ave.; 212-767-1800
Too often, this Cuban drink tastes like 7Up, but Pop's rich, not-too-sweet version is the perfectly crisp conjunction of Bacardi Límon, Gosling's Black Seal rum, fresh lime juice, and crushed mint.

CHAMPAGNE COCKTAIL
Lutèce 249 E. 50th St.; 212-752-2225
We'd expect nothing less elegant from the new Lutèce than Veuve Clicquot with red passion fruit, lemon, and cranberry juices; a dash of cognac; and a garnish of fresh mint and raspberry.

ISLAND DRINK
Dylan Prime 62 Laight St.; 212-334-4783
The St. Croix Cocktail is like liquid sorbet. The danger of this rich frosty mix of banana, cruzan, rum, strawberry purée, and pineapple juice is that it's so delicious you might drink too many.

Illustration by Steven Guarnaccia.

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TILES AWAY The bookstore at Dia Center for the Arts.

like Phoenix are genuinely, truly *terrified*. This is the ideal party for gay Christina Aguilera fanatics with nowhere left to turn.

* * *

Classic Rock and R&B Venue

★ B.B. KING BLUES CLUB & GRILL
237 WEST 42ND STREET
212-997-4144

When pop music's dinosaurs stomped through New York in years past, they had no choice but to head for a high-art theater, a beat-up club, or an over-packed bar downtown. Since June, though, classic rockers like Peter Frampton and Blue Öyster Cult and R&B legends like Chic and James Brown have been playing the B.B. King Blues Club & Grill, an intimate but spacious Times Square supper club that ranges well beyond its titular subject matter. And while the décor isn't without its concessions to the celebrity-restaurant conceit—saxophone-shaped beer taps, a small souvenir store upstairs—it's got great sound and sight lines, a refreshing no-attitude ambience, and table-service food that's actually good enough for a restaurant—there's even one in the next room.

* * *

New Band

★ THE STROKES

Of all the bands to mine the glamorous desperation of seventies New York punk, the Strokes are among the first who weren't around to see it. On the basis of one three-song EP, they may also be the first band to be influenced by grunge when they were *teenagers*. When three of the five members met as students at the Dwight School, "Nirvana and Pearl Jam were really big," says guitarist Nick Valensi, 20. "Plus the Velvet Underground, Talking Heads—all the stuff that happened before we were born." On their first EP, *The Modern Age*—initially issued on the U.K. label Rough Trade but available in the U.S. at the end of April—they combine those influences with the arty style of Wire and the hairstyles of the Replacements into an aural assault that evokes both the New York grit of the past and the New York grit that may lie ahead of us yet. Perhaps preparing for a return to recession-era rock, record labels have come courting to release the band's first full album, due later this year. "They're all taking us out to dinner," says Valensi. "We've gained at least ten pounds each."

* * *

Bar That Allows Dogs

★ VON
3 BLEECKER STREET
212-473-3039

A glass of Château Ramafort Bordeaux for you, a Milk Bone for your dog—this is the good life as lived at Von. The rather civilized, romantically lit wine- and beer-only bar doesn't seem like the kind of place where a Labrador named Lou and a Jack Russell terrier named Chicken would be welcome to nuzzle the calves of strangers, but when owners Charles and Kaarin Von began bringing their pit bull Happy to hang around, customers started asking if it was okay to bring their doggies in, too. Generally speaking, underaged canine customers stick to water, but one night a group of revelers encouraged Happy to drink heartily from their beer glasses. Bartender Louis Benghiat reports: "I've never seen a hungover dog before."

* * *

Museum Bookstore

★ DIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS
548 WEST 22ND STREET
212-989-5566

It used to be the cutting-edge exhibitions upstairs that attracted contemporary-art lovers to the Dia Center for the Arts. Since September, however, Jorge Pardo's witty "Project" has kept visitors lingering on the ground floor, lazing on the red couches (actually, George Nelson Case Study Daybeds from the sixties), and browsing the art books, catalogues, artist CDs, and magazines in Dia's new and spacious bookstore. Pardo's renovation of the Chelsea pioneer's 9,000-square-foot ground floor has wrought other welcome changes, too, among them a separate entrance for the bookstore, and a gallery space that is currently displaying Pardo's abstract mural paintings and is also used for book signings and readings. What holds it all together, though, are Pardo's light-refracting yellow, green, orange, peach, and light-blue ceramic tiles that cover the entire ground floor and its pillars. They alone are worth the trip.

* * *

Sunbathing

★ ROCKEFELLER PARK
WEST SIDE HIGHWAY,
BETWEEN CHAMBERS AND LIBERTY ST.

Thinking about going for that bronzed *Baywatch* look this summer? In Rockefeller Park along the Hudson, sunbathers enjoy impressive views of the World Trade Center, Lady Liberty, and the river (Chelsea boys tend to congregate at the northern end, couples head further south). For a quick midtown escape, you can't beat the Holiday Inn Midtown's airy rooftop pool and sundeck (440 West 57th Street, 212-581-8100, open late May–Labor Day; $25 admission). The spot does attract hordes of twentysomethings on weekends, but it's not a pickup scene: "Most people don't want to be bothered,"

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confides one male hotel employee. "Especially the women. Trust me."

◆ ◆ ◆

Outdoor Drinks

★ MELROSE AT THE STANHOPE HOTEL
995 FIFTH AVENUE, AT 81ST STREET
212-650-4737
★ EL REY DEL SOL
232 WEST 14 STREET
212-229-0733

The Melrose may be the only place in New York where hot weather, bemused foreign tourists, feisty packs of schoolchildren, and deconstructionist culture snobs make for a pleasant afternoon. Located just across the street from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, this café provides the solace of an awning and expertly concocted cocktails that turn the foot traffic outside the museum into an art form of its own. If you'd rather avoid the street scene altogether, head downtown to El Rey Del Sol, a funky Mexican joint that's the very antithesis of the Melrose. Ask for a table in the kitschy back garden, order a pitcher of what may be the best margaritas in town, and by the time you walk out, you'll be surprised to learn that you're still on 14th Street and not in some sleepy Baja surfer town.

◆ ◆ ◆

Star Gazing

★ COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY OBSERVATORY
PUPIN HALL
2960 BROADWAY, AT 116TH STREET
212-854-3276

The Milky Way hasn't been visible from Manhattan since Ulysses S. Grant was president (except, of course, during the odd blackout). But at Columbia University, the observatory is free and open to the public two Fridays per month, from September through May. Just show up an hour after sunset and follow the signs to the roof, where you can spend two hours star-gazing under the guidance of an astronomy grad student or professor. You may want to maximize your time at the lens by not bringing too many friends.

◆ ◆ ◆

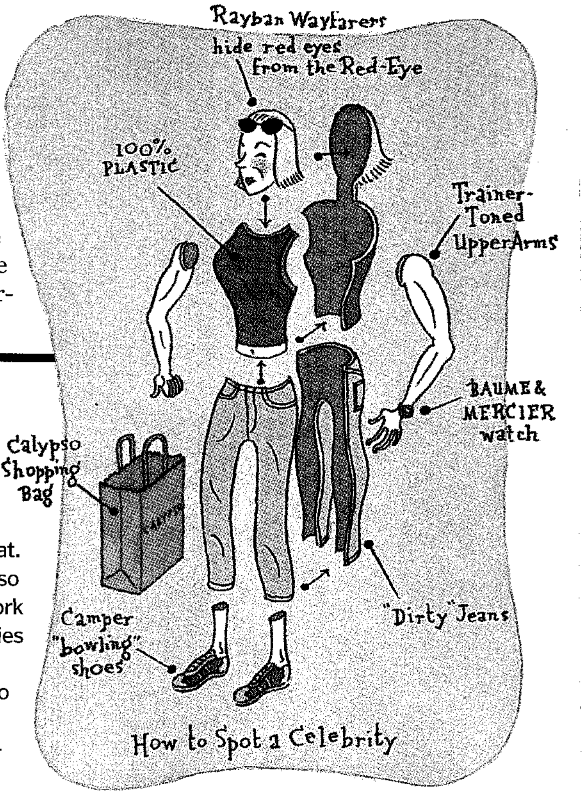
DVD Rental

★ KIM'S VIDEO
6 ST. MARKS PLACE
212-505-0311

When Jim Jarmusch wants to rent that existentialist Marianne Faithfull movie on DVD, he heads up the three flights of stairs at Kim's Video. But you don't have to be an auteur to love Kim's: Model James King is a customer, and girl-about-town Chloë Sevigny comes in to rent one of the 2,200 DVDs on Har-

Star Search

The famous may indeed be different from you and me, but they still have to eat. Since so many of them do so in the same places, New York offers plenty of opportunities to watch stars slurp up spaghetti. Even if you're too sophisticated for this, your out-of-town guests will appreciate the scene cuisine.



PLACE	CELEBRITY	PROGNOSIS
Da Silvano 260 Sixth Avenue	Michael Caine, Paul Schrader, Calvin Klein, Graydon Carter, Madonna, Will Smith, Anna Wintour, Ross Bleckner	Think food by Little Italy, scene from Fellini—if he were looking for a development deal.
Nobu 105 Hudson Street	Madonna, Cybill Shepherd, Cindy Crawford, Jon Bon Jovi, Paul Simon, Tommy Hilfiger, Fran Drescher, Naomi Campbell	There aren't too many goodfellas here at Robert De Niro's sushi den, but the tiny portions offer plenty of chances to witness model behavior.
Chelsea Piers Pier Sixty	Russell Crowe, Julianne Moore, Julia Roberts, Jimmy Smits, Alec and Billy Baldwin, Bebe Neuwirth	Swinging celebs pack the driving range. The climbing wall is a cliffhanger and a mission impossible, too.
Mr. Chow 324 East 57th Street	Puff Daddy, Mariah Carey, Brendan Fraser, Robert De Niro, Brad Pitt, Sean Penn, Ashley Judd	This classic Chinese joint has been around since the late seventies. Diners study the clothes at the next table more closely than the menu.
Eugene 27 West 24th Street	Rod Stewart, Ron Perelman, Paris Hilton, Madonna, Darren Star, Luther Vandross, Leonardo DiCaprio, Oscar de la Renta, Deborah Norville, Gwyneth Paltrow, Guy Ritchie	If restaurants were high-school cafeterias, this Chelsea boîte would be packed with cool kids, and diners without reservations would be treated like, well, Eugenes.
Lotus 409 West 14th Street	Eminem, Dr. Dre, Danny DeVito, Luke Perry, David LaChapelle, Kevin Spacey, Ethan Hawke, Demi Moore, Nicole Kidman	Ponder the name and take a deep breath—you'll inhale cigar smoke from hip-hop players and the Hollywood types who love them.

Illustration by Steven Guarnaccia.

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mony Korine's account. After browsing the massive selection of out-of-print films on DVD, its aisles of classic films, its shelves of gay and straight adult discs (choose your camera angle!), current releases, and Hong Kong films like *In the Mood for Love*, it's impossible not to conclude that Kim's is the best in town. Budget alternative: *From Gone With the Wind* to *Gone in 60 Seconds*, the New York Public Library rents hundreds of DVDs free of charge for a week at a time. The best selections are at the Donnell Library on West 53rd Street and the Mid-Manhattan branch on Fifth Avenue. No existential Marianne Faithfull DVDs, but it does have a nice selection of Jim Jarmusch.

CHEEKY APPEAL
Penelope Tuesdae in the Pinkie Room at Centro-Fly.

Newsstands

★ UNIVERSAL NEWS
234 WEST 42ND STREET; 212-221-1809
★ GEM SPA
131 SECOND AVENUE
212-995-1866

If your periodical preferences tend to the obscure—*Corvette Fever* or *Sleaze Nation*, anyone?—you can do no better than the new Universal News in Times Square, which stays open until 1 A.M. and reopens at 5 A.M. seven days a week. The ideal rendezvous for theater- or cinemagoers (the monolithic AMC 25 is right next door), Universal is a spacious, brightly lit browser's dream, with an astonishing array of domestic and foreign glossies. But if you're desperately in need of a copy of *Tattoos for Men* or *Paris Match* at, say, 4 A.M., head to the curiously named Gem Spa, an East Village landmark that's open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Like Universal News, Gem Spa doesn't stock porno mags (the aforementioned *Sleaze Nation* is an art magazine, thank you very much), so there's no seedy feel to the joint. Best of all, because of its downtown location—which puts it incrementally closer to New Jersey distributors—it often gets magazines a day or two before other newsstands.

Nightlife Personality

★ PENELOPE TUESDAE

When D.J. Penelope Tuesdae, who spins at Centro-Fly's "GBH" (Great British House) party every Friday night, invited clubgoers to "come see the twins as they bounce along, song after song, behind the turntables," she wasn't talking about a pair of look-alike club kids. In a bizarre, Warholian feat of self-promotion, Tuesdae unveiled her 36D silicone upgrade at "GBH's" opening night at Centro-Fly in March. Tuesdae's monumentally un-p.c. sensibility (and towering chutzpa) makes her a true star in these more sanitized times.

Place to Get Schooled

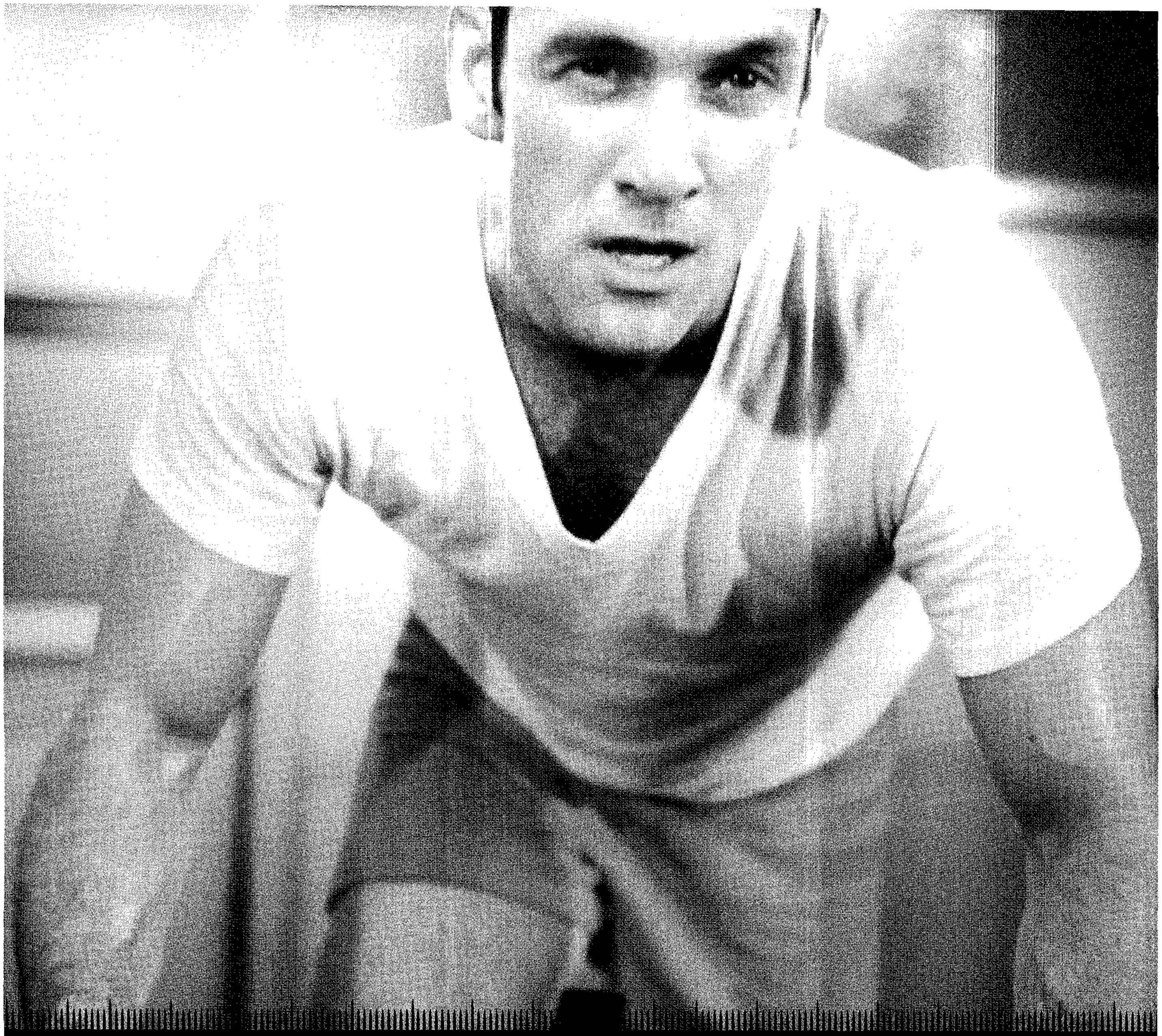
★ WEDNESDAYS AT AUBETTE
119 EAST 27TH STREET
212-686-5500

Every Wednesday night from eight until closing time at this cozy Park Avenue South watering hole, Brooklyn-based D.J. Jemal C provides one of the more illuminating selections of grooves heard anywhere in the city. Rare soul records sampled by Eminem and Dr. Dre are what catches your ear first, followed by music from next-generation R&B icons like Jill Scott and Musiq Soulchild, Body & Soul–styled deep house, and chilled-out drum 'n' bass records. "It's a real esoteric, moody kind of night," Jemal says. "I'm a firm believer in atmosphere." It's an attitude that's rare among lounge and bar D.J.'s, most of whom aim to force their sensibility upon defenseless drinkers. "I'm not gonna be bangin' trance records in here," he says with a laugh. For that, Jemal C gets our eternal gratitude.

Outer-Borough Dance Party

★ "JOURNEY" AT CAVIAR STUDIOS
46 WASHINGTON AVENUE, BROOKLYN
718-222-9456

Outer-borough clubbing has come a long way since the days of Tony Manero. Thanks to Manhattan gentrification and Giuliani's never-ending nightlife crackdown, a slew of trendsetting parties have emerged in Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx in the past few years—Krash, the Warehouse, and Bang the Party, to name just a few—putting a new spin on the term *bridge-and-tunnel.* Right now, the best reason to juice up your MetroCard is "Journey," a Friday-night deep-house party near the Navy Yard in Brooklyn that's home to one of the city's sweatiest dance floors. D.J. Kim Lightfoot's intoxicating mix of vocal house, Afro-funk, and soul classics brings out the city's more serious steppers. Best of all: The club has some of the friendliest doorpeople found in any borough—one freezing night the bouncer insisted that we stand closer to a heater in the doorway!



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Scarsdale: 800 White Plains Road - 914.472.9000

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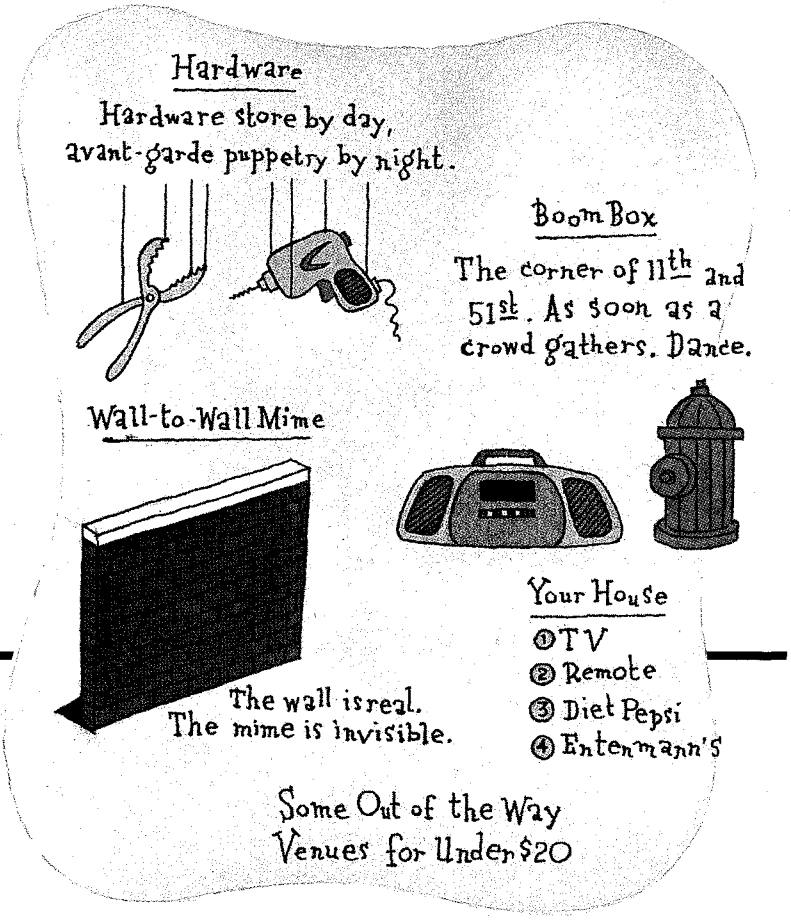
Cult Films

★ THE DEN OF CIN AT TWO BOOTS VIDEO
44 AVENUE A
212-254-3300

For some, watching Molly Ringwald steady her lipstick in her cleavage remains the cult-movie moment of all time. But for those willing to venture farther afield than John Hughes and Anthony Michael Hall, Two Boots' downstairs Den of Cin serves up *Mystery Science Theater*–inspired campfests like *Godzilla vs. Gigan* and *The Turkish Wizard of Oz* in a cozy 40-seat lounge where it's okay to drink beer and talk to the screen. Nearby Cinema Classics (332 East 11th Street; 212-677-6309) gets kudos for its CinemaScope and Billy Wilder festivals. But Two Boots takes the honors with its screenings of that celluloid equiva-



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HERE 145 Sixth Avenue;
212-647-0202

Downtown's best overall Off-Off Broadway venue, with a consistent lineup of the top experimental productions in the city, including works by Elevator Repair Service and HERE's director and founder, Kristin Marting.

P.S. 122
150 First Avenue
212-477-5288

P.S. 122 presents eclectic fare from all over; last year, it hosted Sarah Jones, Danny Hoch, and Holly Hughes, along with the de rigueur event of the moment, experimental puppetry.

The Flea
41 White Street
212-226-0051

Every year, this celebrated little TriBeCa performance space seems to get better, with regular visits by downtown talents like Rude Mechanicals and playwright Mac Wellman.

LITERARY

Russian Samovar
256 West 52nd Street
212-757-0168

Do you really want to see your favorite author mouthing off at Barnes & Noble? Young writers Nicole Krauss and Fiona Maazel don't, either. Their intimate, eclectic Russian Samovar Readings Series has the neurotic flair of a labor of obsessive love, with tiny audiences, tiny glasses of vodka downstairs, and a tiny price tag.

Housing Works Used Book Café
126 Crosby Street
212-334-3324

This small, activist café in SoHo draws writers like Rick Moody and Art Spiegelman, not to mention occasional visitors like Steve Martin who browse the bookshelves and donate copies of their latest work. The profits help Housing Works assist homeless people with AIDS.

JAZZ

Small's
183 West 10th Street
212-929-7565

New York's high-end-jazz world has become almost strictly the turf of suits with expense accounts. But Small's has always been a rebuke to $50 covers. A meager charge gets you a full night of music from whenever you arrive until 8 A.M.—and you don't have to worry about $12 martinis either: This diminutive spot is strictly BYOB.

Smoke
2751 Broadway
212-864-6662

Perfectly free Sunday through Wednesday, never more than $20 Thursday to Saturday, Smoke hosts a revolving cast of terrific jazz bands. Big names like George Benson drop in to jam with the marquee acts, and most of the city's best side men play Sunday through Wednesday for absolutely nothing more than your applause.

ECLECTIC

Lenox Lounge
288 Lenox Avenue
212-427-0253

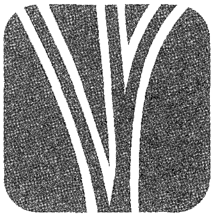
Lenox Lounge is the clubland equivalent of the new VW bug: It's slick and true to its legendary history and still doesn't cost a bundle. Roaring back now with a fancy renovation and acts like vocalist Irene Reid and pianist John Hicks, the historic Lenox Lounge may generate yet another generation of nostalgia.

Merkin Concert Hall
129 West 67th Street
212-501-3330

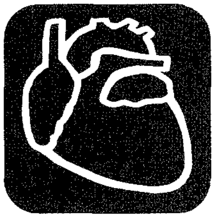
In 1997, the Hall was awarded the Chamber Music America/ASCAP first prize for Adventurous Programming—and it hasn't slowed down. Since then, the Hall has premiered Aaron Jay Kernis's Pulitzer-winning string quartet, a fresh crop of up-and-coming composers, and selected John Zorn to be the Hall's featured composer through 2002.

Illustration by Steven Guarnaccia.

Arthroscopic
Joint Surgery



Endovascular
Aneurysm
Repair



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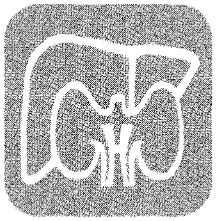
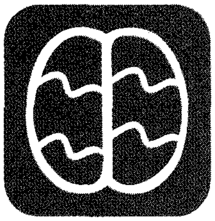


Laparoscopic Removal of
Kidney & Living Related
Transplant



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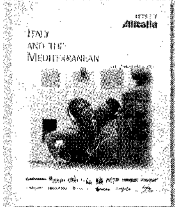

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lent of David Koresh—old Abba performances, satin and all.

Sports Bar

★ PARK AVENUE COUNTRY CLUB
381 PARK AVENUE SOUTH
212-685-3636

A big game—whether it's the NBA finals or your alma mater's season opener—calls for a big screen, a few dozen equally rabid fans, and something more substantial than a bag of chips. At the Park Avenue Country Club, a choice of 50 TVs (including fourteen ten-footers), a booming sound system, and surprisingly excellent grub will make the taste of victory that much sweeter. Along with standards like wings and burgers, the menu includes gazpacho and lobster ravioli, and at least ten beers on draft. Bonus point: The odds are good that a local sports hero—like Michael Strahan, Marcus Camby, or Wayne Chrebet—will be in the house, promoting a charity or taking in a game.

Batting Cage

★ FROZEN ROPES BASEBALL CENTER
202 WEST 74TH STREET
212-362-0344

The next time you need to get out some pent-up aggression, step up to the plate at the Frozen Ropes Baseball Center and imagine that it's the bottom of the ninth, the bases are loaded, and it's all up to you. Up to five at a time can rent out one of the seven softball or baseball cages ($40 for a half hour, $75 for an hour). Serious sluggers will want to head for the king of all cages known as the ProBatter ($70 for a half hour, $120 for an hour), where a virtual pitcher, complete with El Duque–esque windup, throws everything from low-and-inside sliders to fastballs up to 100 miles an hour.

Pickup Basketball

★ HORATIO STREET AT HUDSON STREET

Walk ten blocks in any direction, in virtually any neighborhood, and you'll stumble upon a basketball court with a feisty game of street ball in progress. The problem is, unless you happen to be Karl Malone in town for the day, the idea of hopping into such games is as intimidating as crashing the Oscars. The courts at Horatio and Hudson are a rare Manhattan exception. There are three half-court baskets lined up on this no-nonsense blacktop, and the games tend to range in skill level—from ripped, shirtless wannabe hustlers to paunchy office buddies trying to stay in shape—so the odds are excellent that you'll blend right in.

Pool Hall

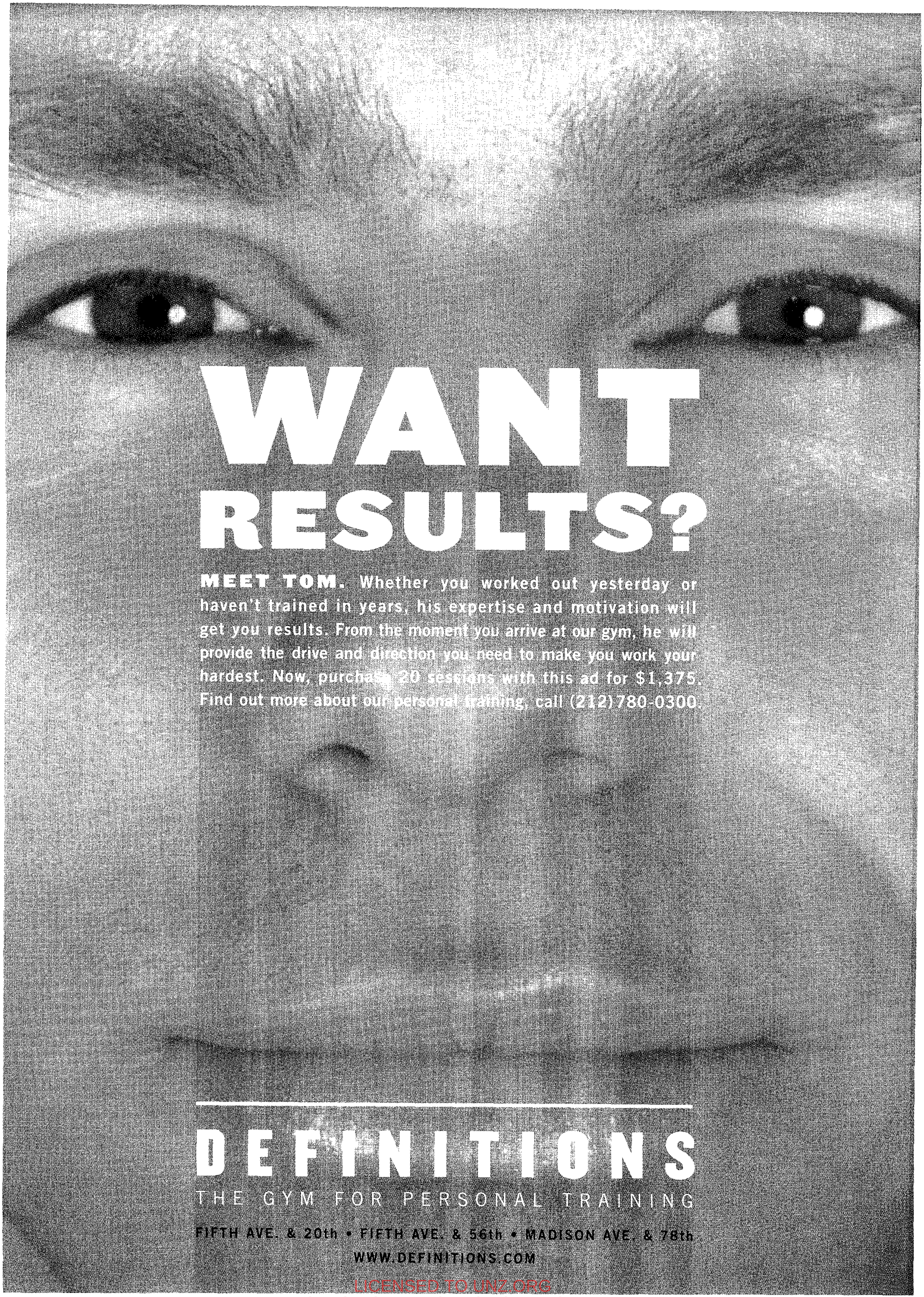
★ FAT CAT BILLIARDS
75 CHRISTOPHER STREET
212-675-6056

It's easy to say the great pool halls are the ones with lots of brass, oak, and tables with those frilly leather pockets—the kind of joint where you introduce yourself as Mad Dog Sharky the Cat and no one bats an eye. But nowadays, such places tend to feel tired or contrived, as the gruff hearts of most old-time pool sharks have likely stopped beating. Which is what makes the un-saloon-ish Fat Cat Billiards the ideal place to hang out, drink beer, and talk plenty of shit over a few rounds of eight ball at a bargain $3.75 per hour. Located underground and illuminated primarily by black lights, it has the ratty psychedelic feel of a saltwater aquarium circa 1976. The pool tables, though, are all kept in top shape. As for background tunes, the jukebox spins something for everyone, from Frank Sinatra to the Smashing Pumpkins.

Tennis Court

★ MANHATTAN PLAZA RACQUET CLUB
450 WEST 43RD STREET
212-594-0554

Tennis in New York: Either there's no backcourt, or the surface is out of 1993 Bosnia, or it's way overpriced. The right to play at Manhattan Plaza Racquet Club doesn't come cheap—$900 a year for an individual membership, and hourly rates that rival your shrink's. But the backcourts are generous, the hardcourts pristine, and the towels are several plush cuts above the usual sandpaper they dole out at gyms. On the money-*is*-an-object side, the city has been upgrading its public courses and adding to its number. The new court in Riverside Park at 96th Street and the newly refurbished one at 119th Street (212-360-8133) are both in superb condition and haven't been discovered yet by the Central Park crowds. Season permits are $50 for adults, and reservations need to be made two weeks in advance during peak times.



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Forever Young

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY SCOTT JONES

BROOK SHIELDS Protective gear helps at the Staten Island Children's Museum's Wonder Water exhibit.

Museum

★ STATEN ISLAND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
1000 RICHMOND TERRACE,
SNUG HARBOR; 718-273-2060

Undiscovered by the parental masses, the Staten Island Children's Museum is secreted at Snug Harbor, the Island's cultural center, where parking is abundant and the duck pond is active. There's something going on there every day, yet it's rarely crowded. On the second floor, the Walk-in Workshop offers daily classes for kids. A favorite is Friday's "Cooking Up Science." The first-floor Wonder Water exhibit explains everything there is to know about the wet stuff. Portia's Playhouse is a miniature theater where kids can try on costumes, put on makeup, check out sound effects, and stage an impromptu performance. At the Big Adventure, daring youngsters can climb a rock wall, crawl through dark tunnels, fly an airplane, and pretend to be a superhero leaping from building to building. Toddlers like Block Harbor on the lower level, with its pirate ship and gigantic collection of blocks and animal toys. Tuesday and Thursday from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. is Tots Time Plus, where preschoolers create artwork, hear a story, and visit an exhibit. It's a 40-minute drive from Manhattan, or take the S40 bus to Snug Harbor from the Staten Island side of the ferry. Admission is $4; kids under 2 are free.

Dress Clothes

★ NATAN BORLAM
157 HAVEMEYER STREET
WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN
718-782-0108

At first glance, Natan Borlam looks like an Orchard Street shop circa 1947: old boxes lining chipped shelving that seems to be on the brink of caving in, exposed piping that was clearly not a design decision, scuffed floors, and peeling paint. And that's just the boys' department. To find the girls' department, you have to pass through a squeaky brown door in a dank alley. The proprietors, Auschwitz survivors Borlam and his wife, Lucy, are the two nicest people you'll ever meet, and they have devoted their American lives to dressing children up. Since 1952, they have offered top-of-the-line clothing, and folks come from as far away as Australia for the Italian-couture Super 100s wool boys' suits and the softest French cotton nightgowns. While a portion of the clientele is made up of Orthodox Jews from all over the region, Borlam also caters to those in need of Communion

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Mexico's Maverick Reformer Takes Charge

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JULY 17, 2000

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Rank	Hospital	U.S. News index	Reputational score	Mortality ratio	COTH member	Technology services (of 5)	Discharges	R.N.'s to beds	Trauma center
1	Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.	100.0	51.7%	0.62	Yes	5.0	8,662	1.12	Yes
2	Hospital for Special Surgery, New York	90.3	46.2%	0.07	Yes	4.5	6,760	1.59	Yes
3	Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston	66.6	31.9%	1.09	Yes	5.0	3,913	1.81	Yes
4	Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore	50.1	18.4%	0.88	Yes	5.0	1,829	1.83	Yes
5	Cleveland Clinic	45.8	13.0%	0.62	Yes	5.0	3,039	1.73	Yes
6	Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C.	44.1	15.5%	1.19	Yes	5.0	3,044	1.76	Yes
7	Harborview Medical Center, Seattle	37.0	11.2%	1.05	Yes	3.5	802	2.30	Yes
8	University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle	36.5	8.1%	0.60	Yes	5.0	1,032	2.10	No
9	University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City	35.5	8.2%	0.59	Yes	5.0	1,818	1.15	Yes
10	UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles	34.0	6.7%	0.84	Yes	4.0	1,984	1.24	Yes
11	Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis	32.3	3.6%	0.74	Yes	5.0	2,969	1.54	Yes
12	University of Pittsburgh Medical Center	32.1	4.7%	0.91	Yes	5.0	3,663	1.40	Yes
13	Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston	31.6	4.4%	0.74	Yes	4.5	2,740	1.52	No
14	Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas	31.4	5.9%	0.92	Yes	4.0	667	1.86	Yes
15	Bexar County Hospital District, San Antonio	30.7	3.2%	0.55	Yes	4.0	640	1.29	Yes
16	Stanford University Hospital, Stanford, Calif.	30.7	3.7%	0.87	Yes	4.0	2,219	1.74	Yes
17	University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics, Salt Lake City	30.4	2.7%	0.68	Yes	4.0	1,622	1.80	Yes
18	Hospital for Joint Diseases-Orthopedic Institute, New York	30.4	4.6%	0.14	No	3.5	2,301	1.10	No
19	Vanderbilt University Hospital and Clinic, Nashville	30.2	3.0%	0.81	Yes	5.0	1,715	2.11	Yes
20	University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor	29.8	2.5%	0.70	Yes	5.0	2,008	1.73	No
21	University of California, San Francisco Medical Center	29.5	4.8%	0.85	Yes	4.0	1,048	1.60	No
22	Summa Health System, Akron, Ohio	29.0	0.5%	[illegible]	Yes	4.0	[illegible]	[illegible]	Yes
23	University of Chicago Hospitals	28.0							
[illegible]	Baptist Memorial [illegible], Memphis								

FOR THE TENTH YEAR IN A ROW, WE'VE BEEN RANKED #1 IN ORTHOPEDICS IN THE NORTHEAST. Year after year, *U.S.News & World Report* reviews over 6,000 hospitals. And year after year, the Hospital for Special Surgery consistently emerges as the best in New York for orthopedics.

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SPECIAL
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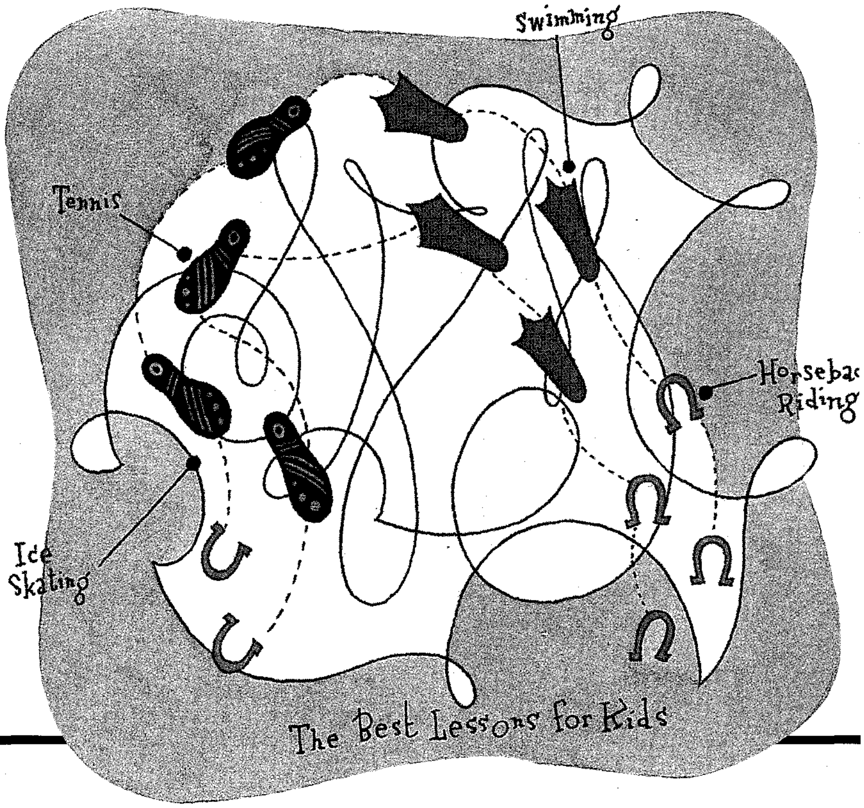
Specialists
in Mobility

dresses (rack and racks of them), fancy bathing suits, and the like. Beautifully embroidered dresses are great for girls, especially when they're under $75. Boys will look like they stepped off the runway in high-closure four-button suit jackets.

Baby Gear

★ FAO BABY
MADISON AVENUE AT 58TH STREET
212-644-9400

Maybe it was all the tourists who shopped the baby department on the second floor of FAO Schwarz, but rarely did New York moms with strollers venture upstairs. Too cumbersome, too overwhelming. But in February, the Madison Avenue entrance of the famed Fifth Avenue toy store opened up to FAO Baby. Occupying half the space of the block-long first floor, this shop-within-a-



The Sporting News

ACTIVITY	DETAILS	COST
Gymnastics **The Field House at Chelsea Piers** West 23rd Street at the West Side Highway 212-336-6500	Colorful, gigantic, and safe. Includes horse, rings, balance beam, parallel and uneven bars, plus a pool of sponge cubes that kids flip into, with professional spotting. Parents can watch their little Olga Korbuts from a special mezzanine. Classes start at 17 months.	Group classes are $350–$380 for seventeen weeks; onetime trial class is $25; private lessons are $72 per hour.
Swimming **Sol Goldman YM-YWHA of the Educational Alliance** 344 East 14th Street 212-780-0800	Since it opened in 1996, the Y has been a recreational haven for Lower Manhattan youngsters. The ultraclean pool bubbles with the bobbing tushies of kids who stay afloat with the help of spongelike life preservers belted to their bellies.	Group classes are $150–$185 for nine weeks; private lessons are $30 per half-hour.
Horseback Riding **Claremont Riding Academy** 175 West 89th Street 212-724-5100	The stables are more than a century old and the teaching program goes back some 70 years. Rides in Central Park are a big draw—but so are the personable and *very* kid-friendly teachers. (Cushier alternative: the Manhattan Riding Academy at Chelsea Piers, 212-367-9090.)	Group lessons are $40 per hour; private lessons are $50 per half-hour; riding in Central Park is $100 per hour with a chaperone, $45 per hour if child is accompanied by an experienced rider.
Ice Skating **Wollman Rink Skating School** Inside Central Park at 59th Street and Sixth Avenue 212-396-1010	So it's crowded on weekends. But generations of school kids have gotten their skating legs in one of the most beautiful spots in the city.	Group classes are $350 (which includes all-day skating on lesson days) for twelve weeks; private lessons are $37.50 per half-hour.
Tennis **U.S.T.A. National Tennis Center** Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens 718-760-6200	Kids have been learning to serve and volley here since the center opened in 1978. There are excellent facilities, skilled instructors, and free parking.	One-hour, indoor beginner group lessons for fourteen weeks are $140. Private indoor lessons are $66–$76 per hour, depending on time and day. Outdoor private lessons are $50 and $60.

Illustration by Steven Guarnaccia

SINCE 1965

DAVID SAITY JEWELRY

450 Park Avenue (between 56th & 57th) 212.223.8125

Indulge Yourself ...

in the beauty and allure of Saity Jewelry's unsurpassed collection of over 10,000 one-of-a-kind, handcrafted Native American masterpieces. Featured in *The New York Times, Vogue, Glamour, Bazaar, Elle, Smithsonian* and on all the major networks.

Credits (from left): Miss Russia Anna Malova, [illegible] Michelson and Malena Belafonte in David Saity Jewels. Photography: by Rick Bard. David Saity with Lenny Kravitz, press photo.

shop has huge displays of infant and preschool toys, books, silver gifts, and a smattering of upscale baby furnishings, bedding, and specialty clothing. We loved the tot-size Hollywood-style bathrobe with its feather boa collar and ostentatious embellishments ($120). The video screens, while in abundance, are not screeching, which really marks the difference between FAO Baby and the rest of the store: It's just calmer. Look for the official grand opening on May 5 and stay tuned for a full agenda of expectant-parent how-to seminars.

Goody-Bag Filler

★ TAH-POOZIE
50 GREENWICH AVENUE
212-647-0668
78A SEVENTH AVENUE, AT 15TH STREET
646-638-0750

Long before he opened his own store in the Village, he was known as Shmuzie Tah-poozie, a kibbutznik who picked oranges all day. Now the tables are turned and Shmuel Kerhaus has the rest of us picking things from his goodies store, Tah-poozie (Hebrew for orangey). Baskets and baskets of really fun, really tiny, cheap tchotchkes line the shelves of this really teeny store. Last week, one Chelsea mom bought sixteen fish water toys as favors for her 5-year-old's tropical-themed birthday party. Parents who shop at Tah-poozie are sucking up parachute aliens (68 cents), glow-in-the-dark suction balls ($1.98), silver capsules with paper inside for a secret message ($1.28), bubbles that don't pop when you touch them ($1.98), and rainbow peepholes (48 cents). We liked the more pricey Pocket Spells, a small matchbox containing botanical seeds, rocks, oils, mood candles, and that all-important incantation chart, good for Harry Potter parties ($5.98).

Costumes

★ RUBIE'S COSTUME COMPANY
1 RUBIE PLAZA
RICHMOND HILL, QUEENS
718-846-1008

Halloween 2001? Rubie's Costume Company is expecting a booming kids' business for costumes from *Josie and the Pussycats*, Harry Potter, *Scooby-Doo*, and, for teens, *Planet of the Apes*. And Rubie's should know: This is the sole retail outlet for a company that does tremendous wholesale business around the world. Rubie's maintains an inventory of 15,000 wigs, full costumes, and accessories that it manufactures itself in sizes from infant to adult. There's even a division of costumes for pets. And if Rubie's doesn't have what you want, the staff will guide you to the custom department. A seven-day rental can run from $65 to $150. Buying a complete, head-to-toe Rubie's creation can set you back from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand.

YOU'VE REALLY GOT A HOLE ON ME At Mark Isreal's downtown Doughnut Plant.

Treat

★ DOUGHNUT PLANT
379 GRAND STREET; 212-505-3700

Taste anything from Doughnut Plant once, and you're hooked. This Lower East Side bakery cooks up the best doughnuts on earth—just ask anyone standing in the line that snakes out the door, waiting to ante up the $1.75-per-piece tariff. Owner Mark Isreal, who moved to this Grand Street storefront last year, took his late grandfather's basic, no-preservatives recipe and created the food equivalent of a Beanie Baby: Kids love them and must have more. They're at least twice the size of the chain-store variety, and they come in 35 mouthwatering flavors, which change daily. Recent selections included Valrhona chocolate, vanilla bean, strawberry, pumpkin, passion fruit, pistachio, toasted almond, and one with rose petals and a rosewater glaze. The shop is also quite kid-friendly, with large windows into the buzzing kitchen. Isreal's artistic father even created a colorful ceramic doughnut sitting area for those who want to savor the sweet in its own space. The only problem: Isreal produces the same number of batches every day, and once the doughnuts are sold out, the store closes. Next up: jelly doughnuts later this year.

Shoes

★ HARRY'S SHOES
2299 BROADWAY, AT 83RD STREET
212-874-2035

We love shoes. Our kids love shoes. Thankfully, New York has the best shoe stores around. Harry's Shoes on the Upper West Side is a one-stop shopping ground for kids' footwear. You'll find your quality Timberland, New Balance, and Nike shoes alongside designer lines: Italian Enzos, German Elefantens, and French Asters. Boys' sizes go from infant to 7, girls' from infant to 6, which is roughly equivalent to a women's 8. The family-owned business has been around since the thirties; a renovation eight years ago and an influx of young families to the neighborhood has made Harry's more popular than ever. Parents can drop some coin there on themselves as well as on the offspring, since the men's and women's departments are equally impressive.

MY LITTLE RUNWAY
A girls-only Glamour Party fashion show at Tortoise & the Hare.

Kids' Café

★ AMERICAN MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY
CENTRAL PARK WEST AT 79TH STREET
212-769-5100

"I want a Nebula Cookie," says a 5-year-old future astronaut, whose kindergarten curriculum on space brought him and his class to the museum. While he munched on the intergalactic shortbread treat at the museum's year-old Food Court, his teacher grabbed a Supernova Bagel. We tried the Moon Rocks (a.k.a. Rice Krispie treats) and a tortilla wrap, in that order. Despite the confused eating pattern, the spacious Food Court is a giant, pristine stainless-steel cafeteria where *nothing* is confusing. And unlike its predecessors, the Ocean Life Café and Dinersaurus, the acoustics allow for adult conversation (although we do miss the big blue whale in the café). The Food Court also serves grown-up dishes: rotisserie chicken, burgers, brioche panini, focaccia, and espresso to help get you through all those hi-tech interplanetary exhibits.

Girl's Birthday Party

★ TORTOISE & THE HARE
1470 YORK AVENUE, AT 78TH STREET
212-472-3399

Coming up on his daughter's 5th birthday, Joe Panasci couldn't believe the amount of schlepping he had to do to get every detail checked off the list. So when he opened Tortoise & the Hare a few years ago, he vowed that any birthday party held at his Upper East Side children's hair-cuttery would be a no-brainer for parents. At his Glamour Parties, kids sporting their most fashion-forward threads are treated to a makeover: hairstyling, manicure, and cosmetic application. All this preteen pampering is followed by a runway-style fashion show, music chosen by the birthday girl. Paper goods, pizza, juice, and soda are provided. (Parents deal with the cake.) Everyone goes home with a Polaroid of her catwalk strut and a goody bag with three hair accessories. A one-and-a-half-hour party for fifteen kids is $499, $25 per head thereafter. Parties can be booked during the week at 5 P.M. or Sunday at noon or 3 P.M.

Baby-sitting Service

★ BEST DOMESTIC SERVICES
10 EAST 39TH STREET, ROOM 1005
212-683-3060

It's 7 A.M. and you're getting ready for a heavy-duty presentation to a client who's flying in from Tanzania. At 7:15, Junior wakes up with the heaves, and there's no way you can send him to school. Call Best Domestic Services. Sheila Karr needed two days of emergency baby-sitting for her 6- and 10-year-olds, and none of the usual suspects was available at the last minute. As a skeptical Tudor City resident, she says she was nervous about calling a service for someone she'd never met. Talk about a convert: Karr boasts that Best Domestic supplied her with "absolutely the best baby-sitting experience we ever had." Advertising executive Monique Almonte of the West Village also swears by the service, which gave her a baby-sitter "with the patience of Job" for her active 6-year-old son. The 24-7 company says it has a database of 10,000 baby-sitters in the tri-state area. It even provides nannies who will travel with the family. Founder Maurice Wingate says before he adds a sitter to the database, he conducts a face-to-face interview and a complete background check, including subcontracting with an outside investigation firm to do criminal-background checks. Average cost is $12 per hour with a four-hour minimum, plus transportation costs and a onetime $25 set-up charge.

Tabletop Games

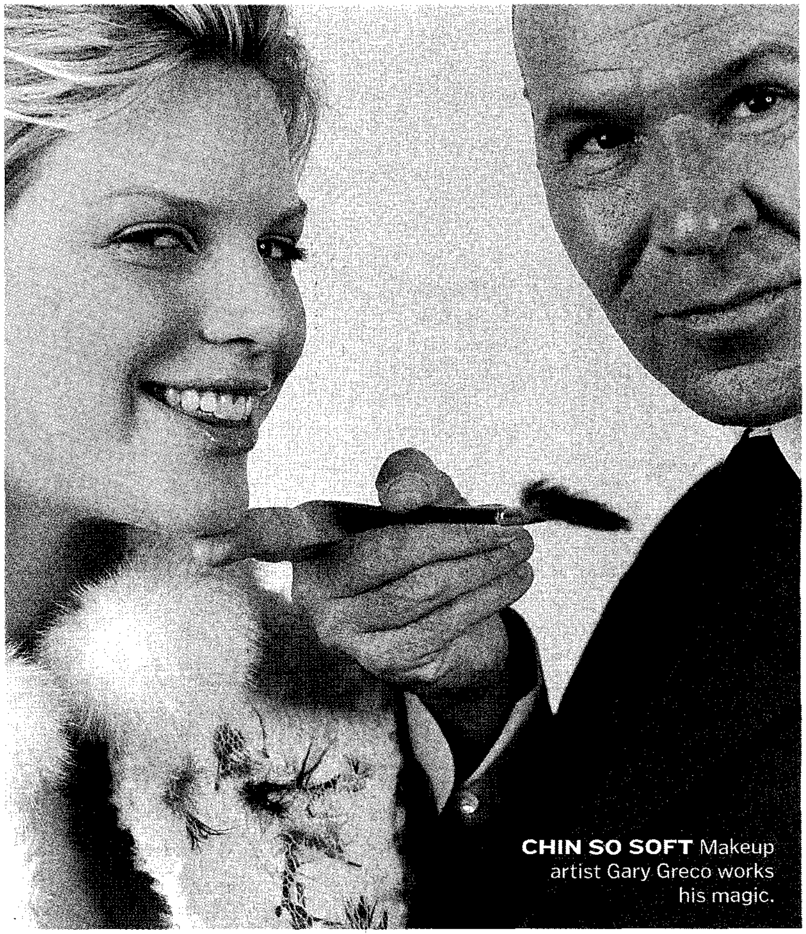
★ GAMES WORKSHOP
54 EAST 8TH STREET; 212-982-6314

At this specialty store given over to tabletop war games, kids from 12 to 50—usually of the male persuasion and bored by video games—can start a collection of *Warhammer 40,000* science-fiction figures, or the original *Warhammer*, a medieval fantasy, or any of twelve different strategy-oriented game systems. You can assemble models, paint, build sets, and play—*Warhammer*, the most popular game, is a hybrid of chess and Risk, only with cooler pieces. A starter box with a squadron to customize is about $50, paint extra. On Sunday there are megabattles in the store where all the models are released from the cases and guests play huge games. There are free painting workshops Monday through Friday at 2:30.

Body of Work

Where to get the sexiest nails, toughest workout, poshest pampering, hottest haircut, strictest yoga, cleanest pores, kneadiest massage—we could go on . . .

PHOTOGRAPHED BY GABRIELLE REVERE



CHIN SO SOFT Makeup artist Gary Greco works his magic.

Sybaritic Spa

★ THE GREENHOUSE
127 EAST 57TH STREET
212-644-4449

Now that the legendary Greenhouse spa has opened its new branch on 57th Street, it's easy to see what lured Elizabeth Taylor and the Duchess of Windsor to the Texas original. After passing through the high-ceilinged lobby filled with goodies like Chantecaille makeup and Belle Fleur bouquets, guests head downstairs, not to a communal locker-room, but to a coat check with private changing areas. The emphasis on privacy extends to the cozy, individual manicure and pedicure banquettes that come with built-in TVs and tabletops so that you can order a seared-tuna salad while your toes are buffed and polished. Those awaiting more extensive pampering—be it a bronzing session ($125), soothing hot-stone therapy ($135), or botox injections (they start at $750 for two areas)—can relax in the sunny second-floor lounge, complete with skylight. And don't worry about the time: A Greenhouse staffer will even walk your dog while the coddling continues.

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Makeup Artist

★ GARY GRECO
MADINA MILANO
151 SPRING STREET
646-613-0838

Gary Greco has a way of making everything—even your pores—feel more manageable. Unlike those awkwardly public department-store counters, Greco's SoHo station is shrouded in shimmery fabric and outfitted with adjustable lighting that is as sensitive and understanding as Greco himself. His touch is light and natural—so that afterward, no one asks you if you've been *made over;* they just wonder why you look so perfect. Opt for either a special-occasion application ($50) or the longer, more interactive makeup lesson ($100). Odds are, though, that even if he shares his tricks with you, you'll be back the next time you want to feel beautiful.

Women's Haircut

★ GARREN
HENRI BENDEL
712 FIFTH AVENUE, NEAR 56TH STREET
212-841-9400

Garren has long been fashion's favorite hairstylist. He shoots ad campaigns for Versace, Calvin Klein, and Prada; he creates runway looks for designers like Anna Sui and Marc Jacobs; he's styled more than 1,000 magazine covers; and he's been responsible for some of fashion's most iconic cuts. But you'd never guess it from his intimate, low-key salon at Henri Bendel. Stylish young women from all Zip Codes come here for sleek, feminine, just-edgy-enough cuts. When Garren razored supermodel Carmen Kass's long blonde locks into a jagged-edge bob last fall, he started the year's biggest hair trend. An appointment with the master himself will set you back $350 (beware, there's a waiting list). You can see one of the nine stylists who work with him—all wizards in their own right—for $130 to $250.

Women's Haircut for Under $100

★ KARLA NEWGARDEN-TAKAHARA
SPACE SALON
155 SIXTH AVENUE
212-647-8588

You'll feel instantly relaxed at the down-to-earth Space salon in SoHo, where you are ushered into a soft, blue silk robe and offered a glass of herbal tea. Newgarden will actually *listen* as you tell her how you'd like your hair to look, before she competently sets about making it happen. In a city of $80 blowouts, Newgarden's cuts, at $75, are a bargain.

Waxing

★ ELIZABETH ARDEN
RED DOOR SALON & SPA
691 FIFTH AVENUE, NEAR 54TH STREET
212-546-0200

As anyone who follows the fashion world—and hence the modeling world—can attest, Brazilians are a bit played out, and expatriates from the former Soviet Union are in. The trend seems to have carried over to hair removal as well. The grouchy J. Sisters, with their mile-long waiting list and pornish Brazilian bikini wax, seem as passé as tech-stock options, while the slightly more conservative old-world charm found at Elizabeth Arden is making a comeback (bikini wax, $28). The gentle, grandmotherly Eastern European ladies who work the wax at the Red Door spa not only welcome you with a cushy blanket-covered bed, a robe, and a pair of disposable panties (no full-frontal nudity here, thank you very much), but they somehow make you feel genuinely comfortable—no small feat for what is, under the best of circumstances, an inherently uncomfortable experience.

Hair Removal

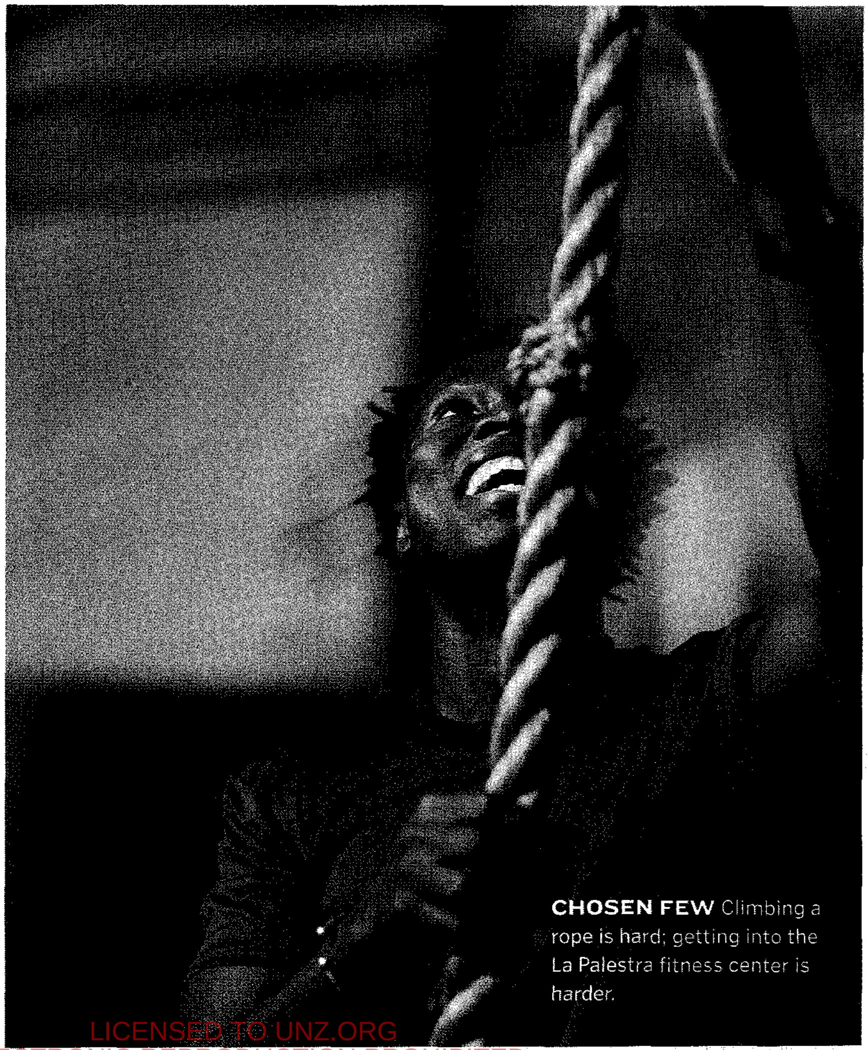
★ COMPLETELY BARE
764 MADISON AVENUE,
NEAR 65TH STREET
212-717-9300

While there's no denying the instant gratification of waxing—ten minutes and you're clean and hair-free—it's a painful process that requires regular maintenance. Intense pulsed light hair removal reduces growth after six to eight sessions, so that you need only a few touch-ups each year (or else you can just take a razor to the few remaining strands). Completely Bare has state-of-the-art machines; a friendly, well-trained, staff; and, best of all, an intimate environment that's a cross between a tea parlor and a beautifully decorated brownstone. (Underarms, $200; basic bikini, $200; legs or backs, $175 for 15 minutes.)

Men's Facial

★ LIA SCHORR SKIN CARE
686 LEXINGTON AVENUE,
NEAR 57TH STREET
212-486-9670

Getting a facial at Lia Schorr's is as straightforward an affair as a man could wish for. The $70, hour-long "procedure" (just tell your buddies you were out to lunch) begins with a soothing massage of the face, neck, and shoulders. But just as you begin to relax, a blinding fluorescent light is thrust in your eyes, and every blackhead you never knew you had is pinched out of existence. It can be somewhat discomfiting if your normal beauty routine consists of a bar of soap, but just when you're ready to scream *"Uncle!"* a chilly cleansing mask is applied, followed up by moisturizer. That night, when your girlfriend re-



CHOSEN FEW Climbing a rope is hard; getting into the La Palestra fitness center is harder.

marks on your glowing mug, just tell her you're happy to see her.

Women's Facial

★ ERBE
196 PRINCE STREET; 212-966-1445

A good facial shouldn't be measured in terms of how much you enjoyed your time in the treatment room; it's what happens in the days after that matters. At Erbe, a tiny, basement-level spa on one of SoHo's last bearable blocks, the benefits of the procedure—which is actually quite pleasant—extend beyond the single hour of steamy, lavender-scented relaxation. Using Italian herbal aromatherapy and phytotherapy products, Erbe offers thorough, effective herbal skin treatments for acne, stress relief, and backs. A pack of seven basic facials can be had for $550.

Microdermabrasion

★ ADRIENNE DENESE
12A EAST 72ND STREET
212-517-6600

Microdermabrasion, the super-facial scrub in which the skin is gently abraded to reveal lost shades of preteen pink, is the noninvasive, nonsurgical beauty secret of the well-preserved. Appropriately, the doyenne of this treatment, Adrienne Denese, is located near her client base, on the Upper East Side. In her able hand, the microdermabrasion wand will pelt your cheeks with salt crystals to leave your skin softer and healthier-looking. Despite a mild stinging sensation immediately after, clients can head right to a cocktail party. The top-of-the line treatment, which includes glycolic acid, vitamin C, and an ultrasound "to drive these ingredients through the skin," is $325. Budget option: the original, simple microdermabrasion with just aluminum or magnesium crystals is $180 a pop.

Prenatal Fitness

★ AQUA MOM
235 WEST 48TH STREET
212-744-6622

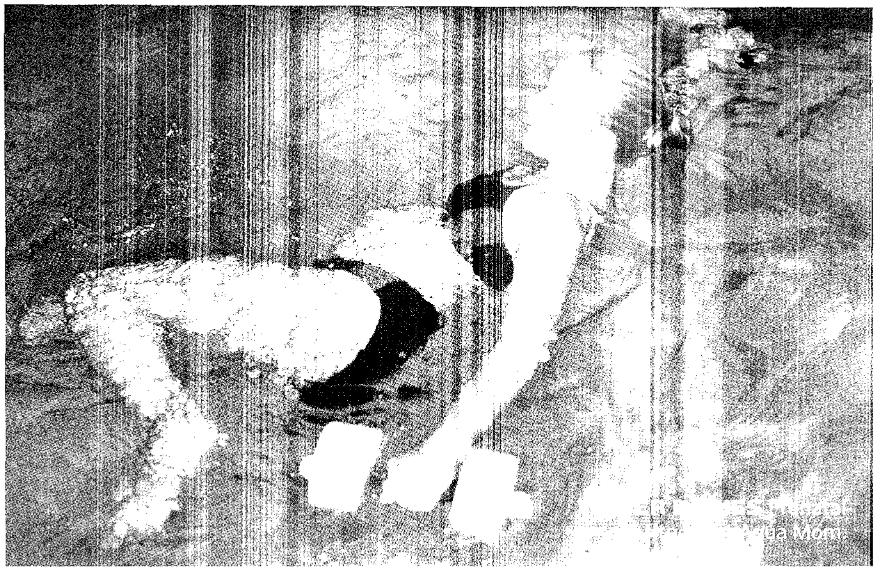
You're pregnant and exhausted and now people want you to exercise? Sure, it's good for you, great for the baby, and should help with labor—but isn't walking up a flight of stairs enough of a workout? Enter Aqua Mom. Think of a

The Sunday Paper
The Tech Stock Crash
The Sopranos
The Best Yoga Positions

Bend Me, Shape Me: The Best Yoga Classes

WHAT	WHY	WHERE	DETAILS
Big Yoga	If you can't get to India, the least you can do is walk over to Lafayette Street.	**Jivamukti** 404 Lafayette Street 212-353-0214 (and one other location)	The city's largest yoga center, Jivamukti offers at least ten vinyasa/hatha classes a day; teachers are dynamic, music is original, the overall experience energetic yet oddly relaxing. (Beginners beware of open classes).
Beginner's Yoga	Yes, yoga sounds weird, but everyone is into it, so you'd like to check it out.	**Laughing Lotus** 55 Christopher Street 212-414-2903	At this new pink-painted studio in Greenwich Village, you'll find a broad mix of hatha classes, special events like a laughing-therapy workshop, and unintimidating classes for "absolute" beginners.
Gym Yoga	When you just can't take the go-go gym energy any more, but are still a member.	**The Sports Club LA** 330 East 61st Street 212-355-5100 (and two other locations)	Yoga teachers cannot live by asana alone, and now more than ever they're making their living at gyms—here, experts lead the great treadmilled in ashtanga, hatha, kundalini, and a yoga-Pilates hybrid.
Hot Yoga	Exercise and a sauna at the same time—what could be more enlightening?	**Bikram Yoga NYC** 797 Eighth Avenue, near 48th Street; 212-245-2525 (and two other locations)	Only Californians could think this up—"bikram" yoga, which only recently hit our Coast, involves cranking the heat up to at least 100 degrees in airtight studios; you'll come out pure but smelly.
Hardest Yoga	One word: Madonna.	**Pantajali Yoga Shala** 430 Broome Street 212-431-3738	The Material Mom may prefer house calls, but devotees of her favorite style—Mysore ashtanga—practice at the SoHo satellite of the Mysore, India ashram. (Classes sold in sets of 12; curiosity-seekers not welcome.)

Illustration by Steven Guarnaccia



gentle cardio workout in warm water—of being weightless for an hour! Each class is limited to nine and combines swimming, yoga, and resistance training; sessions meet once a week for eight weeks ($240). In the water you don't need to worry about balance or stress on the body, and you can get started as early as you like and continue all the way up until arrival time. Founder Andrea Pritchett actually has women come to class while in early labor.

• •

Exercise Class

★ SPEED AT EQUINOX
897 BROADWAY, NEAR 19TH STREET,
AND OTHER LOCATIONS
212-780-9300

Even if Sun Salutations have become your morning ritual, or you've found a new religion in Pilates, there's nothing wrong with a little old-school calorie burn in the name of cross-training. Speed, an intense cardio workout developed by Equinox trainer Joe Dorr, begins with participants jogging the perimeter of the classroom to pounding hip-hop, followed by a series of running intervals that incorporate full-on sprints, side-to-side shuffles, and harder-than-it-looks back-pedaling at full throttle. According to Dorr's calculations, of which there are many—he recommends using a heart monitor and a stopwatch—there are 300 to 500 changes of direction in the course of the hour. "Every stop and start feels like you're doing a squat; every time you change direction it's like a leg press," he notes. Even the most sluggish Speed students will burn between 800 and 1,200 calories. Warns Dorr, "There's no hiding in the back of the class."

Manicure

★ ACQUA BEAUTY BAR
7 EAST 14TH STREET; 212-620-4329
★ JOSEPHINE BEAUTY RETREAT
200 EAST 62ND STREET; 212-223-7157

It's a minor frustration, but a frustration nonetheless, when you sit for half an hour having your nails shaped, trimmed, and lacquered, then wait another twenty minutes for them to dry, only to have the polish disappear the next day. Acqua Beauty Bar doesn't cut corners. It'll soak your hands in citrus along with alpha-hydroxy crystals to smooth rough skin, then wrap them in hot towels and massage them before applying fresh polish and a strong base. At Josephine Beauty Retreat, the manicure spot of choice for Julia Roberts, the $20 manicure uses two coats of Nailtique for extra security, and a white pencil underneath the nail for a clean, feminine look. Best of all, it will still look good a week later.

• •

Pedicure

★ EQUINOX SPA
140 EAST 63 STREET
212-750-4671

You know you've had a grade-A pedicure when you emerge with your feet both pristine (including under the nails) and baby-soft, a challenge for sure in New York, where we spend so much time pounding the pavement. Equinox begins with a whirlpool foot bath, which contains massage grooves for relaxation; next comes a thorough cleansing, clipping, and scraping, seriously attacking callouses; followed by a salt scrub for exfoliation and a dip in hot paraffin wax for extra softening. A foot and lower-leg massage is thrown in

JO MALONE
LONDON

THE CULT BRITISH PERFUMER
WHO'S TAKEN ENGLAND
BY STORM OPENS HER DOORS
TO NEW YORK CITY

COME MEET
JO MALONE

AND LEARN HER UNIQUE
ART OF FRAGRANCE COMBINING

SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH
12:30PM UNTIL 2:30PM

JO MALONE SHOP
THE FLATIRON BUILDING
949 BROADWAY

PLEASE CALL FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT
212 673 2220

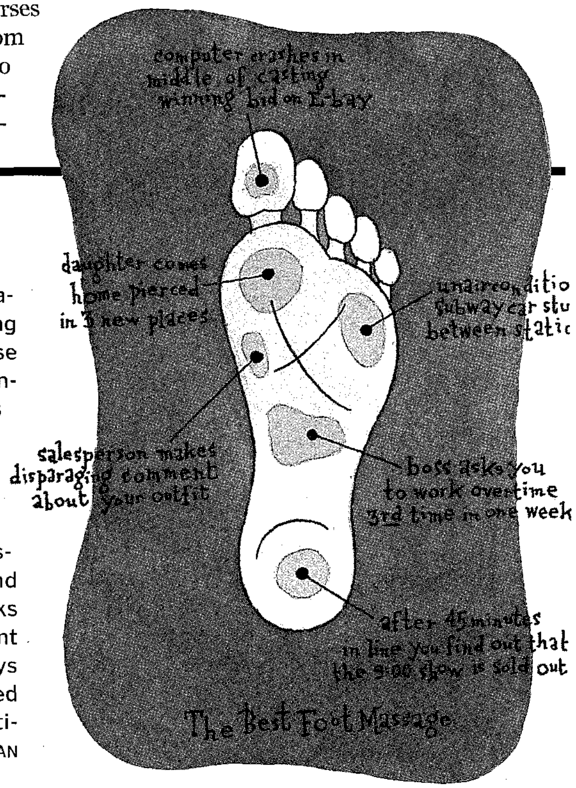
Jo Malone
London
Verbena of Provence
Bath Oil
Jo Malone
London
Lime Basil & Mandarin
Bath Oil
Jo Malone
London
Amber & Lavender
Bath Oil

for that spa hit, and finally polish is applied. Now you're ready for those Manolo Blahniks.

Gym

★ LA PALESTRA CENTER FOR
PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE
11 WEST 67th STREET
212-799-8900

Getting in to La Palestra, where Liam Neeson and Howard Stern are regulars, is about as easy as passing a CPW co-op board. "We only take 250," explains owner Pat Manocchia, as he gives a tour of the mezzanine's hotel-style changing rooms complete with phone and Indian-slate shower. And slackers need not apply. La Palestra is not so much a gym as it is an intensive-care center for total body fitness. Upon initiation, members are given a report card and a "prescription" and are *required* to meet with a trainer 28 times in six months. Courses are offered in everything from fundamentals, like how to run—most people, as Manocchia notes, do not do it properly—to medical-minded classes, such as how to deal with weight-related health issues if you're a diabetic. Motivated members can also sign up to extensively train for a specific event. For a ten-mile run from Paris to Versailles in October the curriculum includes testing lactate threshold one day, a trip to the Met on the other, followed up by visits to the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay across the pond.


computer crashes in middle of casting winning bid on E-bay
daughter comes home pierced in 3 new places
unairconditio subway car stu between static
salesperson makes disparaging comment about your outfit
boss asks you to work overtime 3rd time in one week
after 45 minutes in line you find out that the 9:00 show is sold out
The Best Foot Massage

You Must Remember Bliss

Although Swedish massage remains the fallback—the vanilla at 31 Flavors—clients are starting to step out. They're asking for what Healing Hands president Greta Reinen refers to as "energy work" to release "energy blockages." There are, she adds, a lot of requests for less invasive techniques "that enhance the functioning and healing abilities of the body—people realize you don't have to feel bruised the next day." These include Reiki (gentle pressure on fifteen discreet areas of the body); cranio-sacral therapy (think of it as a great scalp massage); Lomilomi ("gentle loving touch" in Hawaiian; a combination of Reiki and the long, sweeping strokes of classic Swedish massage); aromatherapy (Swedish, with mood-enhancing smells); and Thai-yoga therapy, in which you lie on a mat and the therapist picks you up and stretches you out. The demand is heavy, and clients want longer sessions as well. "Baby-boomers felt they had to earn it," says Kelly Weber, senior marketing vice-president for Elizabeth Arden Red Door Salon & Spa. "The younger generation feels they're already entitled to it."

JOANNE KAUFMAN

SPA	TRENDY RUBDOWN	ALSO HOT
Bliss 19 East 66th Street, 568 Broadway; 212-219-8970 (both); $95 to $200	**Ginger rub:** You're basted with freshly grated gingerroot and essential oils, then left to simmer for twenty minutes in warm Mylar. When you're unwrapped, you get a Swedish-shiatsu mix for 100 minutes.	Aromassage Rubberneck
Elizabeth Arden 691 Fifth Avenue 212-546-0200; $85 to $95	**Desert stones:** Heated lava rocks warm muscles and joints, followed by Swedish techniques, to create a deep sense of relaxation.	Aroma Swedish
Healing Hands 20 East 66th Street 212-396-1366; $80 to $120	**Cranio-sacral therapy:** Gentle pressure at the back of the neck improves the flow of cerebral-spinal fluid; helps the body to self-correct.	Lomilomi Reiki
The Peninsula Spa 700 Fifth Avenue 212-903-3910; $70 to $160	**Reflexology:** You know it as a foot massage. Devotees believe certain metatarsal pressure points correspond to certain organs and glands, and that foot massage promotes balance and reduces tension.	Aroma Pregnancy
SoHo Sanctuary 119 Mercer Street 212-334-5550; $95 to $135	**Sanctuary massage:** Combines Swedish, shiatsu, and deep-tissue (penetration of sub-layer of muscular tissue—in other words, *Owwwww*), but in the end, relaxing and therapeutic.	Aroma Thai Yoga
Stress Less Step 115 East 57th Street 212-826-6222; $90 to $135	**Non-brutal shiatsu:** You're on a floor mat, wearing pajama pants and a T-shirt, and given light finger pressure at various key points on your body. Can relieve arthritis and sinus congestion.	Swedish Deep Tissue

Illustration by Steven Guarnaccia

Acupuncture

★ VITAL GATE
225 EAST 64TH STREET; 212-759-7733

Celebrities flock to Galina Semyonova to cure everything from coughs to circulation troubles to addictions. The Moscow native employs Eastern medicinal wonders like herbal tinctures and *moxa* patches, along with superfine sterile needles to stimulate and heat painful areas. She also e-mails you a list of foods recommended for your condition, as well as those to be avoided—not that you were planning to eat much red bayberry or white eel anyway. Prices start at $85. And be forewarned: No cell phones allowed. They interfere with the room's energy.

• •

Hair Colorist

★ OSCAR BLANDI
768 FIFTH AVENUE,
AT 59TH STREET; 212-593-7930
★ ANTONIO PRIETO SALON
25 WEST 19TH STREET; 212-255-3741

Hair colorists are like plastic surgeons in that, if they do their jobs right, their aesthetic alterations go unnoticed. For a natural, sun-kissed look, Park Avenue princesses flock to the Plaza Hotel and the understated swank of the Oscar Blandi salon ($90 for single-process, $200–$275 for full-head highlights). Colorist Kyle White trained with Brad Johns and furnishes clients with a carefully cultivated patrician look—think soft, childlike streaks, not brash strips. At the Antonio Prieto salon, a mellow, downtown gem, colorist Paul Cucinello works similar magic on darker manes ($80 for single-process; $215 for full-head highlights). Cucinello's favorite tricks prove his subtle mastery: weaving auburn shades into full-on brunette locks and bringing out the chestnut in a formerly mousy brown. Whatever the color (and both are skilled with all), these men aren't concerned with making their particular mark on you—another example of professional restraint.

• •

Teeth Whitening

★ DR. IRWIN SMIGEL
635 MADISON AVENUE,
NEAR 60TH STREET
212-371-4575

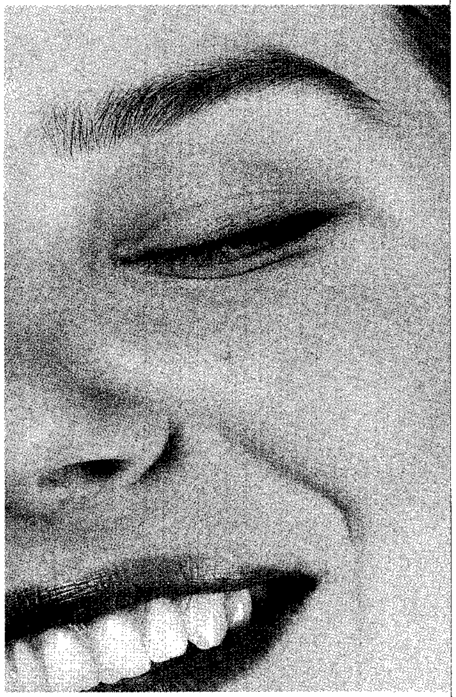
Follow some of the most photographed smiles in the city—Ivana and Ivanka, Donatella and Calvin, the Miller sisters—to the source of cosmetic dentistry himself, Dr. Irwin Smigel. The man actually invented bonding, and there's even an aesthetic-dentistry prize named after him at the NYU College of Dentistry. Smigel whitens not with bleaching trays but with a plasma arc light (which he helped invent). It's not the cheapest route ($1,000), but it is the quickest (about an hour and a half). And you'll walk out with blinding white choppers. Budget option: Smigel's Supersmile, a nonabrasive toothpaste ($16) that's a proven whitener.

• •

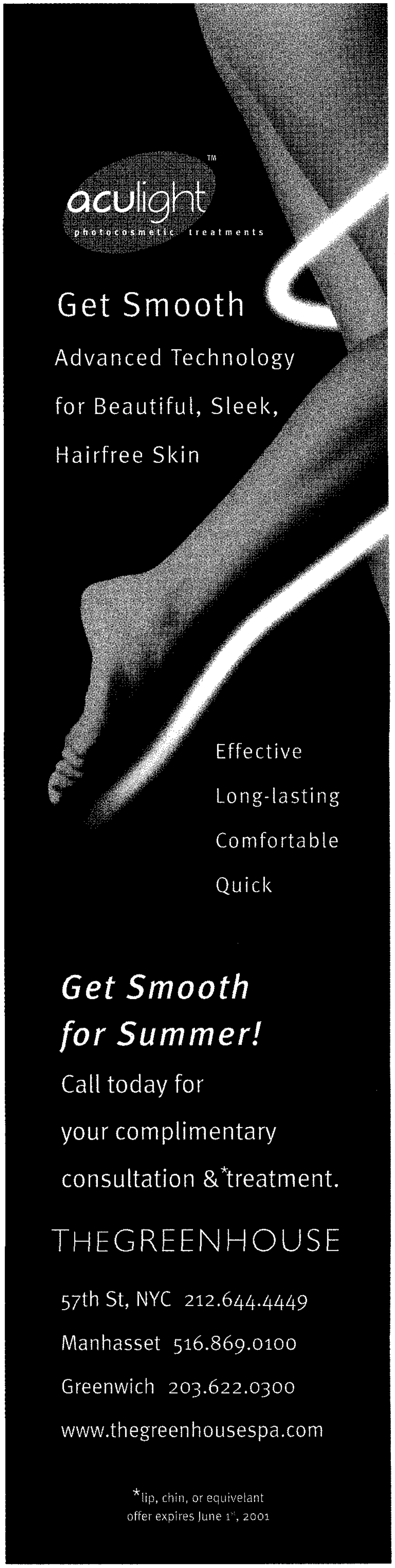
Eyebrow Grooming

★ ELIZA'S EYES
AT AVON SALON AND SPA
725 FIFTH AVENUE
212-755-2866

If you aren't handy with tweezers, maintaining shapely brows can be a major headache. And, as anyone who's chanced a $15 walk-in job at the corner salon knows, wrecked arches take a very long time to grow back. Top groomers, like Avon's Eliza Petrescu, charge upwards of $65 and command six-month waiting lists. Instead, check out Eliza's associates—a group of four brow specialists selected and trained by the doyenne herself. Same lavender-scented wax, same cozy salon, equally spectacular results, all for a very reasonable $45 a pluck.



PLUCKY First-rate care for your arches at Eliza's Eyes.



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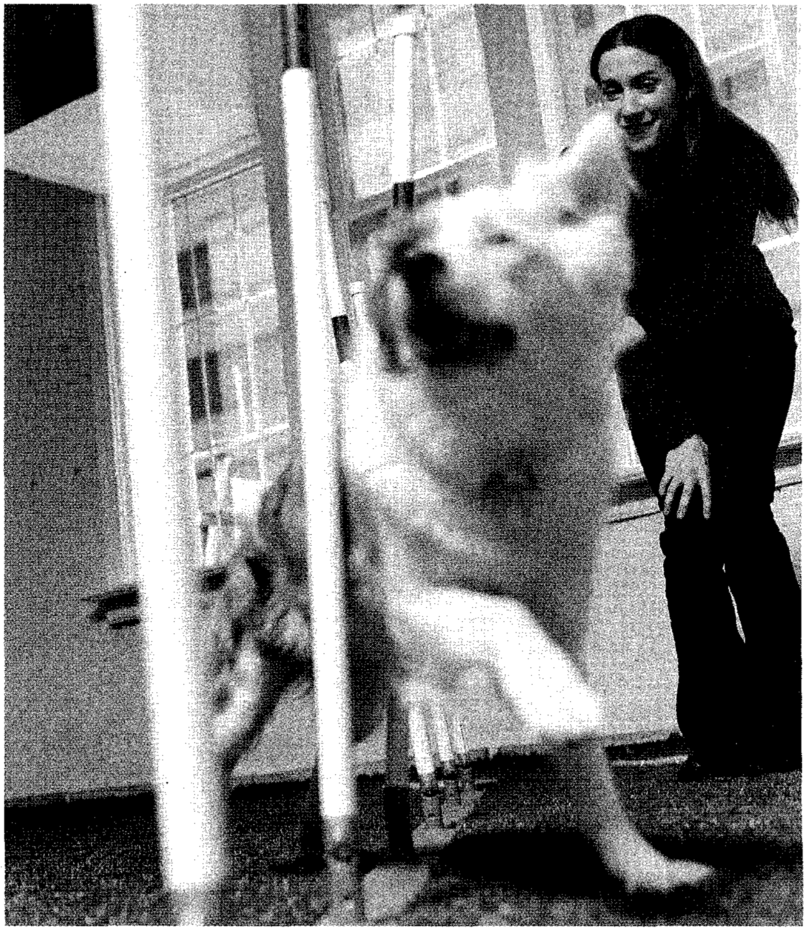
Dog School

★ ANDREA ARDEN'S MANHATTAN DOG TRAINING
227 EAST 44TH STREET
212-213-4288
WWW.ANDREAARDEN.COM

A dog's life in the city is not an easy one. How can you expect your pooch to reach his or her full potential when all you're offering in the way of personal-growth opportunities is a walk around the block a couple of times a day? In the ever expanding world of continuing ed for canines, Andrea Arden is Ivy League. She's been in the business ten years, authored four books, and is on the board of The Association of Pet Dog Trainers. The six-class sessions ($300; limited to eight students) start just about every two weeks, with courses including Agility, Puppy and Adult Training, Tricks, Dealing With Difficult Dogs, and Clicker Training. Throughout May, there will be lectures ($25) every Wednesday night on topics ranging from "Bark Busting" to "Total Recall." An honorable mention goes to Follow My Lead (212-873-5511; classes held at the Universalist Church, 4 West 76th Street, as well as outdoors). They offer three levels of training, $285 for seven sessions.



RUFF TRADE Andrea Arden's no-nonsense Manhattan Dog Training school.

Dog Hotel

★ BISCUITS & BATH
227 EAST 44TH STREET
212-692-2323

There are five floors (a rooftop garden is in the works) devoted to doggy indulgence at this cheery, newly opened, 25,000-square-foot facility: four massive exercise areas, a lap pool, a grooming salon, veterinary care, a boutique, "Lullaby Village" (charmingly decorated crates) for snooze time, and an immaculate kitchen for food prep. For owners, they also offer classes, lectures, events, and a snack bar–café. Biscuits & Bath is a little pricier than other facilities, but after inspecting some dungeonlike places, you might think this a bargain. Dogs are supervised 24/7 and get leash walks every few hours. Annual membership is $250 the first year, $150 thereafter; day care (proof of shots is required) is $30–$35 per day, depending on the size of dog; overnight stays are $55. Currently, there is a free, specially outfitted jitney service for pickups and returns.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROBERT HUBER

06
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SERVICES

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Two wonderful neighborhood places (though neither has a shuttle service) deserve honorable mentions: Camp Canine (46 West 76th Street; 212-787-3647) is impeccably clean, bright, and well run. Sutton Dog Parlor (311 East 60th Street; 212-355-2850) has an almost magical backyard (at night, it's lit up like Tavern on the Green) for the big dogs, with toys, ramps, hoops, and a pool in summertime. There's an always-open door to their basement play area, and although it's on the small side, it's still jolly-looking and well scrubbed. The small dogs have an airy, comfy play space adjacent to the yard. And all the dogs have huge kennels.

Travel Agent

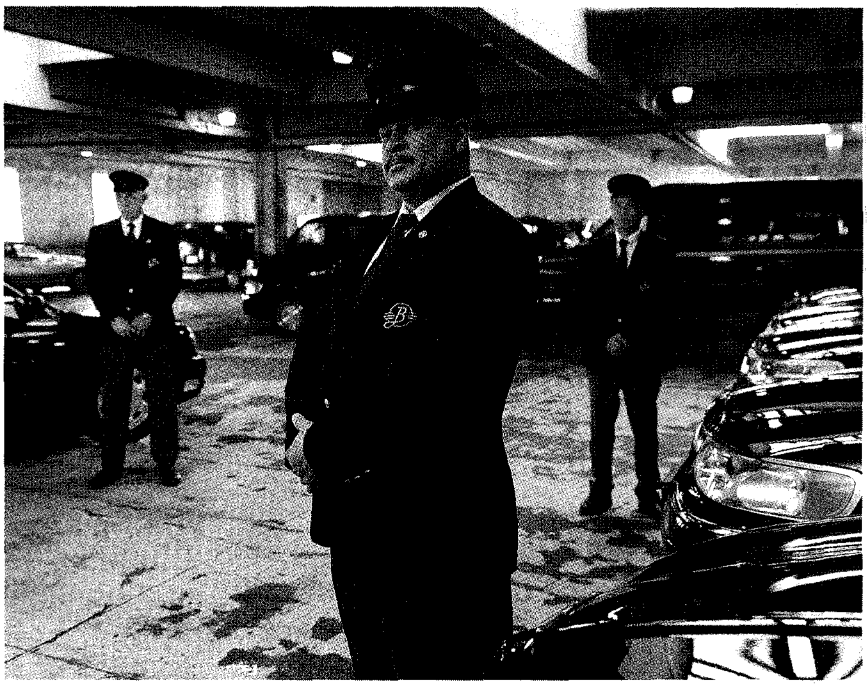
★ TRAVELCRAFT
119 WEST 23RD STREET
646-336-7081

When the travel agency that booked a group of 45 NYU students on a charter flight to Cuba folded three days before the trip, Lizet Gedicíyan at Travelcraft was able to rebook the entire trip—non-charter—at a cheaper rate. The agency has many tricks up its sleeve, like waving advance-purchase fares and hounding airlines until they find a seat for you, even during holiday time. Alternatively, Frenchway (11 West 25th Street; 212-243-3500) caters to models, so they're used to capricious types who change plans at the last moment. They'll go that extra mile—once even sending a dress solo to a shoot in Paris via London because there were no direct flights left. The best part: They work seven days a week, and are always available via beeper.

Home Soundproofing

★ ACOUSTILOG
19 MERCER STREET
212-925-1365

There's one in every building: It might be the swinging bachelor, dutifully reenacting his favorite scenes from *The Marquis de Sade Reader*, or the Manolo-clad fashionista clickety-clicking across her parquet floors each morning, or, worst of all, the screaming newlyweds, whose every querulous interaction gets broadcast through your air vents. When you can't take it anymore, call Alan Fierstein at Acoustilog in SoHo. Fierstein and his team of acoustic experts have helped New York residents and businesses keep quiet for 25 years. (They've even visited Savion Glover in his East Village pad—suggesting, among other things, a custom spring-loaded floor.) You can spend an hour consulting with Fierstein at his office for $250, or he'll come to you for a site visit, and produce a complete written report for $850. Then he'll put you in touch with contractors who can do the work, whether it's blowing insulation into your ceiling, laminating your walls, or caulking spaces where sounds creep in.



BERMUDA TRIANGLE Three drivers in the garage at Bermuda Limousine International.

Wedding Planner

★ MARCY BLUM ASSOCIATES
251 EAST 51ST STREET
212-688-3057

Unlike some wedding planners—those commandos in headsets who seem to think that it's *their* day, dispatching Grandma to her seat so they can cue the music for an over-the-top production in which the happy couple is a mere bit player—Marcy Blum keeps her role in perspective. "I know that what I do is not the cure for leukemia," she says. Blum has organized weddings for Tom Clancy, two Rockefeller brides, and Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick, among others. Her attention is always focused on the "gestalt" of the event: making sure it flows, that the mood is upbeat and surprising, and that lines aren't forming at the coat check. Not that she can't do elaborate; Blum once created a virtual New York in the Puck Building (complete with Chinatown, Central Park, and Harlem). Her fee starts at $30,000. Recession special: Blum's new day-of service, which lets the bride relax while someone else runs the rehearsal and figures out how to get the presents home, starts at $1,000.

Limousine Service

★ BERMUDA LIMOUSINE INTERNATIONAL
212-647-8400

We can think of at least three things you'd never trust to an ordinary car service: your prom, your wedding, and Springsteen at the Garden. For these, you'll want Bermuda Limousine International, a limo service with a perfect mix of reliability and panache that makes everyone from Bobos (bourgeois bohemians) to CEOs comfortable. What started out 60 years ago with just owner Domonic Verdi and his Packard has grown into an 80-vehicle fleet that even in its earliest years counted the Salomon Brothers and the Lauder family among its clientele. Customers choose among luxuriously appointed Cadillac, Lincoln, and Mercedes sedans ($63 per hour), stretch limos ($70 per hour, with a two-hour minimum), and 25-person mini-coaches ($80 per hour). (To all fees, they add a $6 surcharge.) Service is guaranteed on time (the dispatch center is going online and just quadrupled in size), and the drivers are courteous and always unfailingly discreet.

Bartender for Hire

★ COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
BARTENDING AGENCY; 212-854-4537

At your last party, you figured you'd let the guests mix their own drinks, and what happened? You spent the greater part of the evening fetching cups, opening bottles of wine, and eyeing the ice bucket. Next time, hire a pro—it's not nearly as expensive as you might think. For almost twenty years, the Columbia University Bartending Agency has been dispatching Ivy League junior mixologists to private parties. For $21 an hour ($23 if you also want the dishes washed), a gracious and just-hip-enough student bartender will arrive at your door in a jacketless tux, set up, and concoct whatever meets your guests' fancies (you supply the hooch). There's a four-hour minimum, and it's advisable to book at least a week in advance.

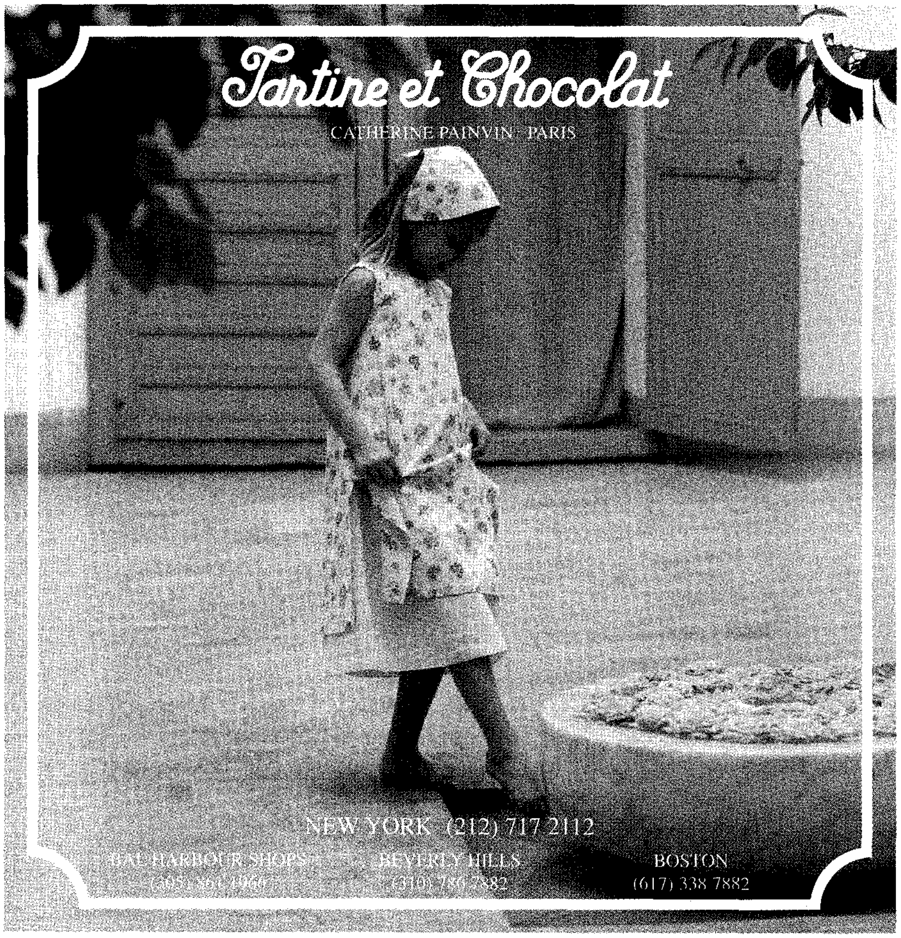
TAPER FORUM Wedding planner Marcy Blum takes the low-key route.

* * *

Personal Shopper

★ VISUAL THERAPY
24 WEST 57TH STREET, SUITE 502
212-315-2233

Do you ever look at those perfectly accessorized women who always seem to be wearing this month's fashion and feel you could never look so put-together on a regular basis? Jesse Garza, Lani Rosenstock, and Joe Lupo, who make up Visual Therapy, will help you achieve an updated, refined version of your own



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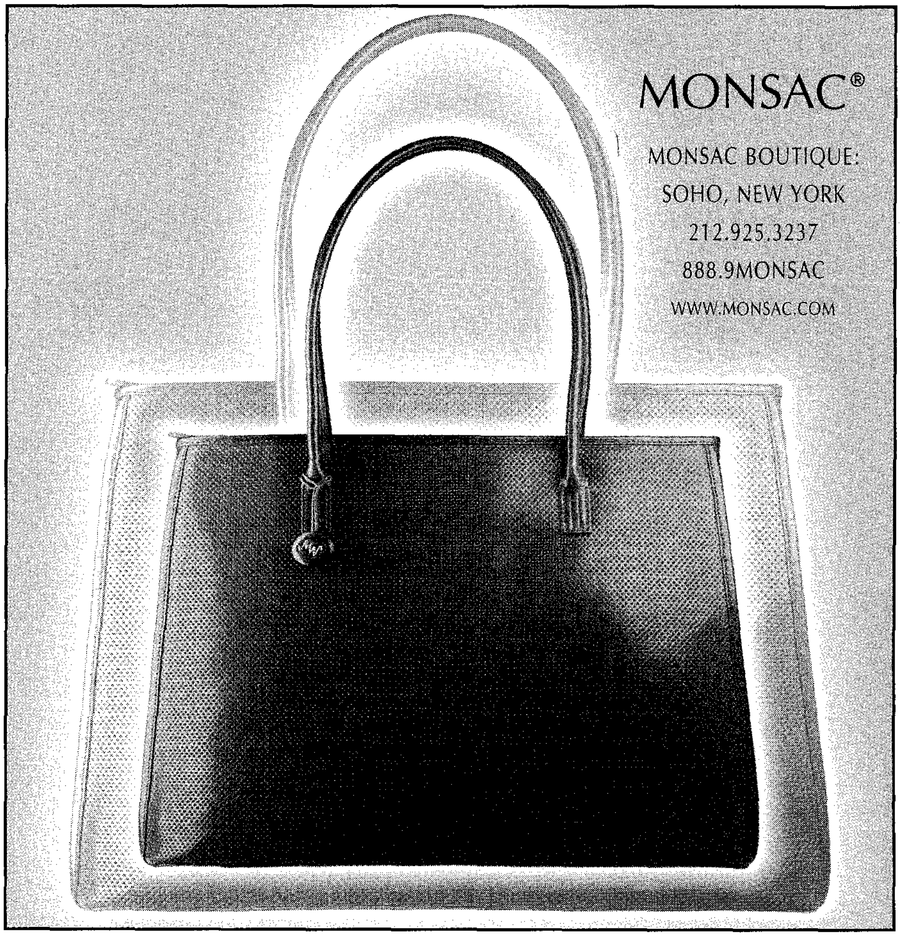

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personal style. They will interview you about your lifestyle, then organize your closets like a retail store—the black-cardigan section, the pleated-skirt section . . . Then they mercilessly force you to part with those tired, outdated, or unflattering pieces that simply take up space. Finally, it's time to hit the stores, where they pick out things you would never see, like a Prada-esque suit on sale for $150, or a top that, combined with your old black pants, will make a very current, chic little outfit. The fee is $250 an hour or 20 percent of the clothing's retail price, whichever is greater. For $75 per hour, Cross It Off Your List (404 Park Ave. South; 212-725-0122) will take care of your more utilitarian shopping, like buying all the necessities for a new apartment, setting up your beach house for the summer, and buying gifts for everyone on your Christmas list.

Brooklyn Car Service

★ ARECIBO CAR SERVICE
170 FIFTH AVENUE, PARK SLOPE
718-783-6465

Anyone who lives in Brooklyn, or has ended up there in the early-morning hours, knows that calling a car service can be a bit of a crapshoot. For those living in the Park Slope–Brooklyn Heights neck of the woods, Arecibo Car Service is the way to go. Most of the time, a sedan will be at your door within ten minutes (and that's all that we ask, really), and they'll charge a little less than their competitors. And if you ask nicely, they might just send a full-size van for hauling stuff home from the junk shop or transporting a bunch of your soused friends to Manhattan. A trip from Prospect Park to the Lower East Side costs $12. From the same neighborhood to JFK airport, it's only $24. These prices are cheaper than a yellow cab, and with the rent you're saving by living across the water, you can afford it.

Wine Delivery

★ WINESBY.COM
23 JONES STREET
212-242-5144

It's hard to believe at first that Jeff Hock runs a Website for a living—he's just too darn personable to be spending the majority of his day as the silent force behind some Web page. Then you learn that the site is about selling wine, and it all makes sense. Winesby.com is an efficiently designed site offering 60 wines ($8–$40) to be delivered anywhere under 125th Street in Manhattan within 90 minutes. "People are overwhelmed with wines," says Hock. "I've weeded out 60 that I think are the best to drink right now." And for you Webphobic Luddites (or anyone who refuses to use the Internet ever since buying all that pets.com stock): Don't worry. Hock keeps a small, bare-bones retail shop, where there's usually a bottle uncorked and ready for anyone with a little time to kill.

Fruit Basket

★ THE ORCHARD
1367 CONEY ISLAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN
718-377-1799

Nothing says I love you like a nice fruit basket. (Except maybe a diamond bracelet, or a trip to Paris, but nevermind.) Of course, it has to be the right fruit basket. Getting a crinkly cellophane time bomb loaded with waxy, fake-looking apples, fibrously dry oranges, and those annoying miniature jelly jars is about as welcome as hate mail. Place an order with the Orchard (we recommend the "Gourmet," which comes in a wicker basket and includes a bottle of California white wine and Godiva chocolates) and you can rest assured that your recipient will be thanking you all week long as he or she feasts on a gorgeous assortment of ultrafresh fruits. No matter the time of year, we've never encountered a mealy piece of fruit here. That's because the Orchard picks up their fruit—mangos from Haiti, Hawaiian pineapples—at the airport each day. They'll deliver anywhere in Manhattan with a day's notice. Baskets start at $50. Platters of cut fruit start at $62.

Florists

★ WILD POPPY
265 EAST 78TH STREET
212-717-5757
★ ELIZABETH RYAN
411 EAST 9TH STREET
212-995-1111

There are florists who have higher profiles, who have more impressive shops, and who service bigger names, but

SPRING IN A BOTTLE Wild Poppy, on East 78th Street, can go riotous—or simple.

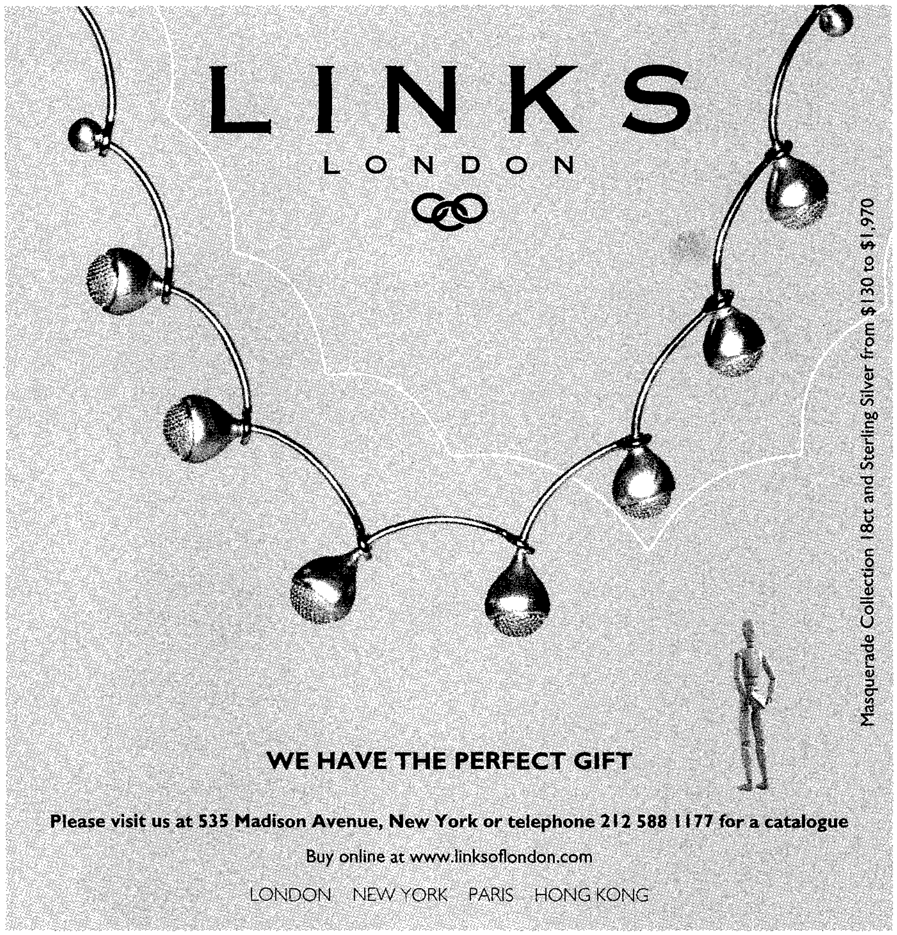
for sheer creativity, freshness, warm service, and value, we'd be hard-pressed to choose between Andrea Nordloh's Wild Poppy and Elizabeth Ryan. Both stores, relative newcomers, are charming jewel boxes, with riots of color everywhere. And both are flexible and eager to please, so minimums ($45 and $40, respectively) and delivery fees (starting at $10 for both) are reasonable. From Nordloh, count on simply enchanting arrangements, highlighted by unexpected combinations of flowers (even things like mint and interesting berries), to create any desired look, from the formal to the fanciful. Ryan celebrates the splendor of flowers with equally unexpected, radiant color combinations in unusual vessels (Japanese teacups, pencil holders), and she'll even embellish the presentation with a modest accompanying gift from her Zenlike shop next door.

* * *

Exterminator

★ ASSURED ENVIRONMENTS
360 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEAR
53RD STREET
212-557-1515

Ask environmental groups why New York City still has a bug problem even though we dump 1.6 million gallons and 7.8 million pounds of pesticides on our apartments each year, and they'll tell you it's because our exterminators act less like the bouncers at Lotus than like willful Tarantino hit men. One company, Assured Environments, has consistently chosen to work on excluding pests rather than resorting to indiscriminate spraying and bombing. Started by the Kline family in 1934, the oft-renamed business has since acquired seven smaller exterminators—Allied, A-1, Barton, Bayridge, Pioneer, Thompkins, and United—all of which still operate under their original names. A call to any of the branches gets you a free consultation with technicians and, should your problem warrant it, with one of two in-house entomologists. Roaches are monitored with glue traps and treated with plant-derived pesticides. Webbing-clothes moths, prevalent whenever designers increase the use of wool, cashmere, and linen, are treated with a thorough closet-cleaning—no pesticides at all. These NYPIRG-approved methods actually work. For years, the Klines have kept nearly every Park Avenue and Fifth Avenue high-rise free of verminous riffraff.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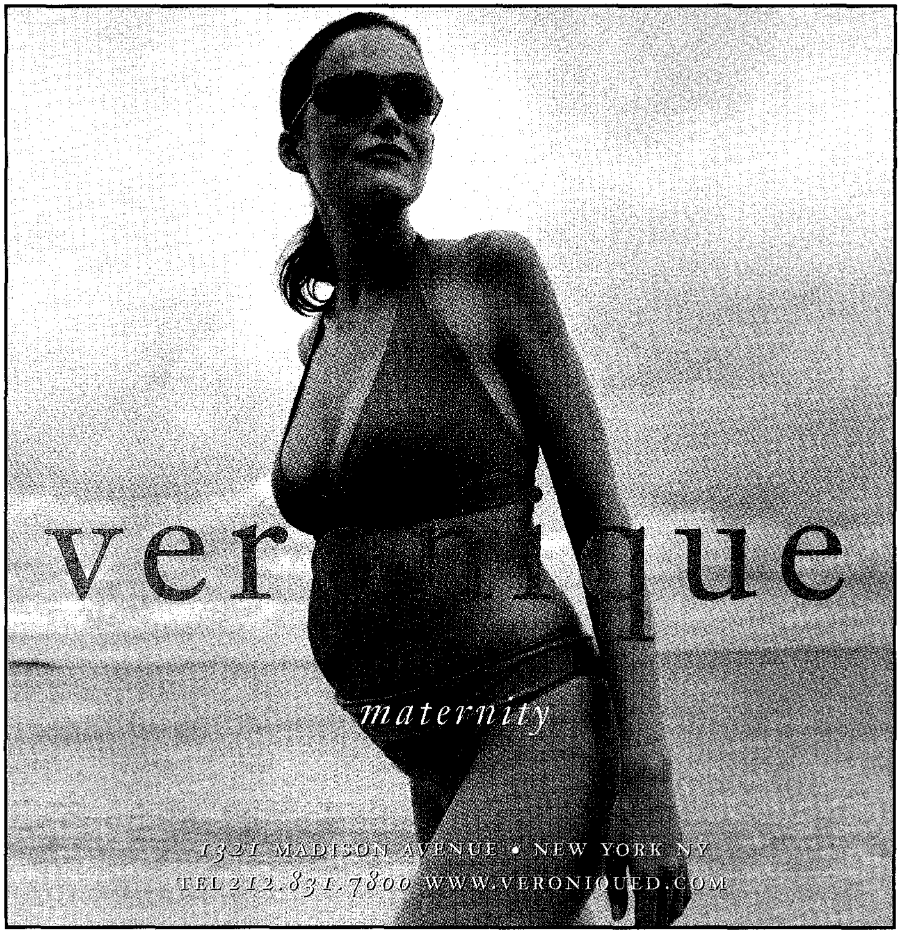
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Clocks

★ ANTIQUARIAN HOROLOGIST
1 BEEKMAN STREET, ROOM 507
212-587-3715

John Metcalfe will work on any non-battery-operated clock, be it "an early Woolworth or a late Faberge," or even a complicated grande sonnerie, which he describes as "a clock that simply won't shut up." Metcalfe recently overhauled a Renaissance table clock ("All the parts were there, but it hadn't run in centuries") that he got working for $1,000. Prices start at $200 for general repairs and $600 for long-case (grandfather) clocks and escalate based on complexity. He makes housecalls and guarantees his work for a year.

Jewelry

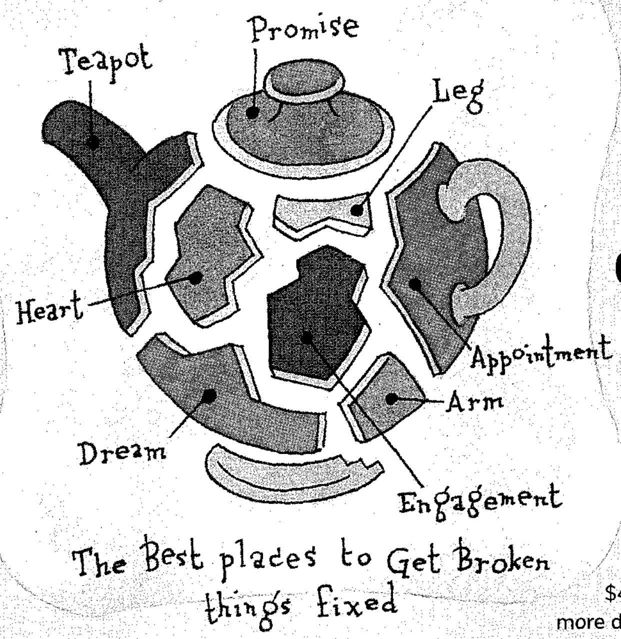
★ MURREY'S JEWELERS
1395 THIRD AVENUE, NEAR
79TH STREET; 212-879-3690

In business 60 years, Murrey's and its nimble-fingered wizards tackle everything from commonplace soldering (attaching charms, $4 and up; ring-sizing, $25 and up; replacing posts on earrings, $12.50 and up) to reconfiguring caches of estate jewelry. They'll restring complicated, multistrand, woven pearl/bead chokers (a single-strand pearl choker starts at $20) and overhaul or service just about any brand of watch, from a Hamilton or Gruen ($125 and up) to a Patek Philippe or Rolex ($200 and up). Murrey's team of seven jewelers and watchmakers will become nine when the glass-enclosed-repair-booth-of-a-shop expands this summer.

Shoes

★ ANGELOS SHOE RESTORER
666 FIFTH AVE, AT 53RD STREET
212-757-6364

Sure, most places can fix a heel or add taps to your soles, but when it comes to restoring an old pair of boots, fixing an intricate detail on a purse, or changing last year's heel to make those $400 stilettos street-worthy again, you have to go to an expert who can handle the tricky work. Angelo's will polish up a delicate vintage bag to new freshness, add inches to those pumps that didn't make you quite tall enough and brush up suede to just-purchased luster. Top Service (845 Seventh Avenue, near 55th Street; 212-765-3190) is one of the only shoemakers with a special machine to re-solder buckles, chains, and other detached metal bits. And don't worry that those killer snakeskin boots you bought are too loose around the calf—they'll take them in, as if they were altering a dress.



Furniture

★ OLIVER WESTERMEIER
212-473-2408

The key to transforming a piece of so-called trash furniture into an astonishing gem is getting the right person to restore it. Oliver Westermeier restores wood furniture, specializing in French polishing. He's been tapped by top designers, including Peter Marino, and the occasional celebrity, like Michael Douglas, to work his magic on a range of period styles, from vintage modern to original Vienna Secession. And he makes house calls.

Carpets, Average

★ MAJESTIC RUG CLEANING CO., INC.
644 WHITTIER STREET, THE BRONX
718-542-7474

Patching a twelve-inch square starts at $50. Majestic will also sew tears, refringe ends ($12 a yard), overcast frayed edges, machine-bind edges ($1.25 a linear foot), and so on, but they do not reweave. Cleaning is based on carpet classification, from simple bound remnants to delicate handmades like Orientals (a nine-by-twelve-foot would range from $98 to $140).

Carpets, Expensive

★ RESTORATION BY COSTIKYAN
28-13 14TH STREET
LONG ISLAND CITY
800-247-7847

This is the place for carpets with a price tag and a pedigree; work is pricey but masterful and meticulous. Cleaning a nine-by-twelve-foot Oriental is $350 to $400; an Aubusson, about $500; a more delicate carpet with silk in it, $500 to $600. In addition to standard repairs (refringing two ends of a nine-by-twelve-foot Oriental runs $500 to $700; hand-binding the non-fringed sides, about $750), Costikyan does tedious and time-consuming reweaving (a twelve-inch square would cost about $2,500; merely patching it about $600).

Bag Repair

★ ART BAG
735 MADISON AVENUE; 212-744-2720
★ MODERN LEATHER GOODS
2 WEST 32ND STREET; 212-947-7770

Spilt Chianti, melted lipstick, vicious subway doors—when it's time to take that classic Kelly into the shop, go where Tod's, Stephane Kélian, Saks, and Denise Ridge go—to Art Bag or Modern Leather Goods. The two shops see 200 bags a week each—and employ a small army of leather workers and fabric houses. Services start at simple strap repairs and fabric dry cleaning (for about $65) and go right up through relining, rewelting, reglazing, replating, or giving up and re-creating.

Illustration by Steven Guarnaccia.

Housecleaning

★ THE ORIGINAL DUSTBUSTERS
CLEANING SERVICE
212-926-4834

Barbara Lawrence has turned everyone's least-favorite chore into an art form. "You have to be interested in and committed to cleaning," says Lawrence, who started the Original Dustbusters in 1985 and plans to open a school to teach others her system. "I'll never understand people who start at the bottom and work up, so that dust keeps falling. I work from the top down." She also scorns the easy route of cleaning around objects, vowing to pick up everything and clean underneath. Her staff organizes as they go, cleaning closet floors and lining up shoes and other errant objects. Rather than the usual hourly fee, they charge by the job, $65–$225 per apartment; they supply all cleaning products. For a serious spring cleaning, Madame Paulette (1255 Second Avenue, near 66th Street; 212-838-6827) will not only handle upholstery, balloon drapery, and carpets, but they'll also bring along purifiers to clean the air you breathe. Prices range from $100 to $2,500.

● ●

Window Cleaning

★ FRANK'S WINDOW CLEANING CO.
212-288-4631

Every schoolboy knows you can spot most superheros simply by looking up. Catch someone on the side of a building and chances are he's no ordinary man. That's what makes us so suspicious of Frank's Window Cleaning, whose workers we spot high above Park Avenue and Fifth Avenue every day. They show all the obvious signs: the fearlessness, the thirst for danger, the business name so mundane it could only be a front for something else. Richard Kulzer, Frank's son and the company's owner, has this uncanny knack for finding the strongest, most honest, most compelling window-cleaners in the city—including, at times, Mohawk Indians, Italian alpsmen, Senegalese farmers. And we can't help thinking that there's something beyond the $6.50–$7 per-window charge, the month-long training period for new employees, and the 72 years of family service that makes the company a favorite among high-end supers. The pulleys and belts have you thrown? Hell, even Spiderman and Batman needed fancy equipment.

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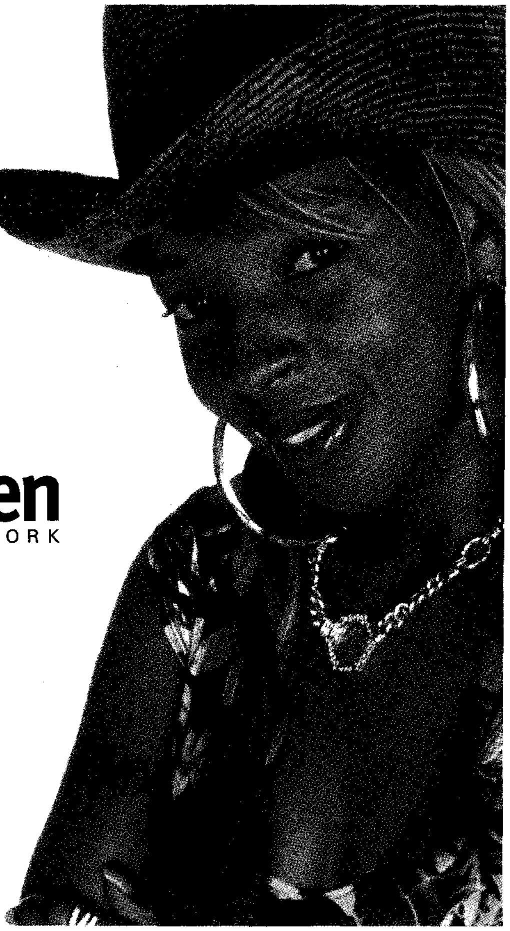

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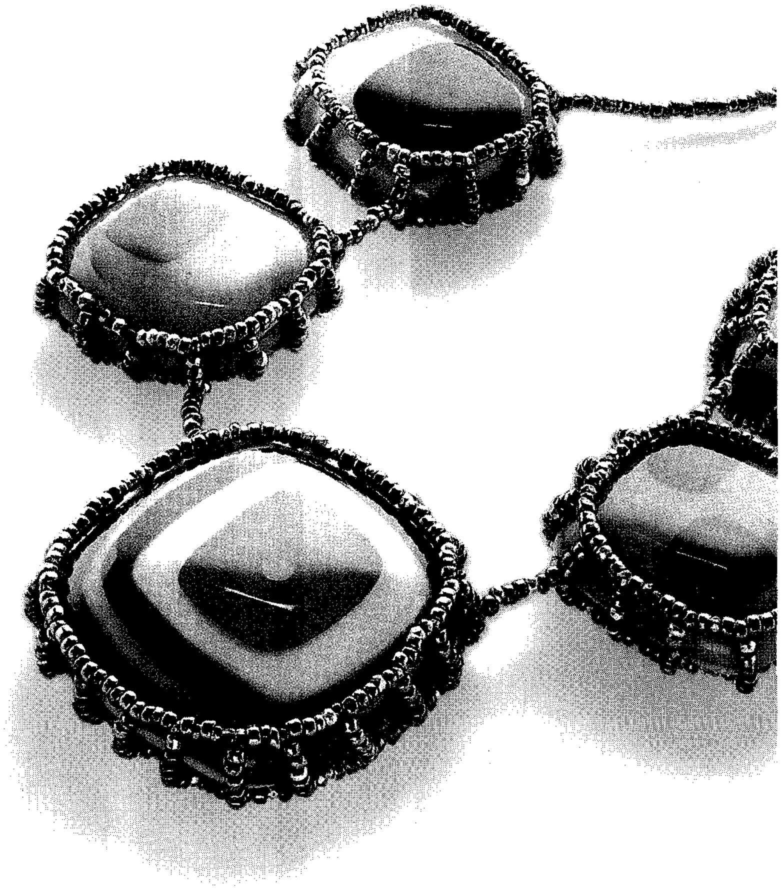
Best Bets

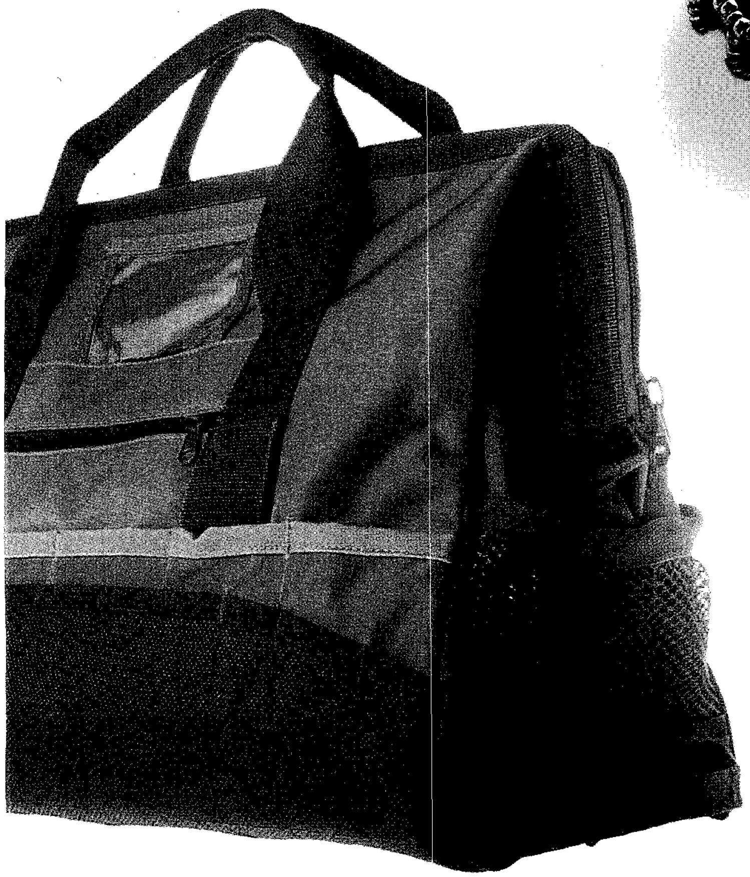
RIMA SUQI

Jewels of the Nile

Call it a labor of love. Not only does Erica Rosenfeld painstakingly fuse the colorful glass pieces her jewelry is made of, but she also scours the markets for the antique steel-cut beads that hold them together. The resulting pieces—bracelets, necklaces, chokers, and rings—are a mix of old and new: Fusing glass is an ancient Egyptian technique, but Rosenfeld's color choices and geometric designs are very much of the millennium (this necklace, $400).

► **URBAN GLASS**
57 Rockwell Place, Brooklyn/718-625-3685
► **VERVE**
353 Bleecker Street/212-691-6516





Tools for Living

Wouldn't be caught dead with a "man bag"? Easy big fella, you can't get any more manly than a tool bag. This one, at A.P.C., is available in small (for the gym, $40) or large (for weekends away, $60). Made of hyperstrong parachute fabric, it has plenty of pockets inside and out, plus special loops for holding tools—or shoes, or rolled-up T-shirts, or one of your special facial scrubs.

► **A.P.C.**
131 Mercer Street/212-966-0069

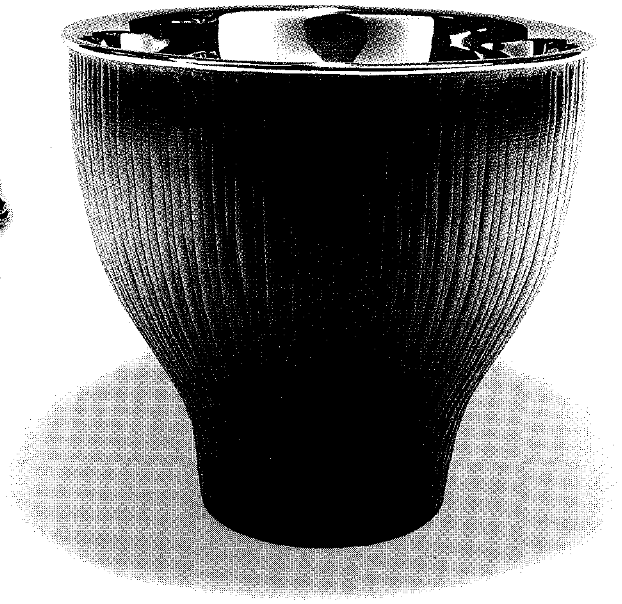
PHOTOGRAPHED BY NEDJELJKO MATURA

Om and Away

Of all athletic pursuits, yoga is probably the easiest to stay true to when you're traveling. And this Yoga in a Box kit makes it even easier. It includes flash cards with photos of poses on one side and line drawings on the other—plus a stretching strap, a candle, incense, and two CDs with both instruction and soothing music ($30).

▶ **FLIGHT 001**
96 Greenwich Avenue/212-691-1001

OM
yoga in a box



Bowl More

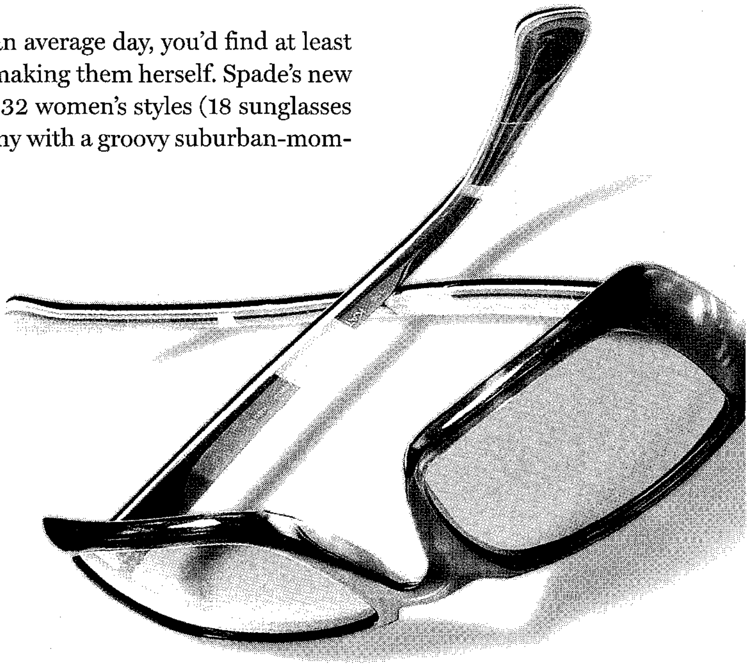
Michael Aram's now-iconic nature knobs—brass drawer pulls in the shapes of flowers and such—were last century's must-have accessory. His new collection is more streamlined, perfect for twenty-first-century interiors. Aram originally imagined his Africa bowls as wood pieces, but ended up with a dark oxidized-bronze outer layer and a high-gloss stainless-steel interior. "The blackness is evocative of ebony and has a wooden quality," says Aram. "But they're food-safe and the double-wall construction of the piece helps maintain the temperature of whatever is in the bowl" (large, $85; small sold in set of two for $40).

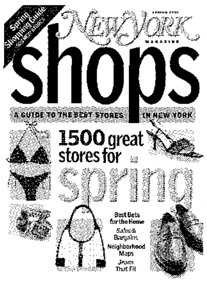
▶ **SEE LTD.**
920 Broadway, near 21st Street/212-228-3600

Eye Do

If you looked in designer Kate Spade's bag on an average day, you'd find at least three pairs of sunglasses—and that was before she started making them herself. Spade's new collection of eyewear, which hits stores this week, includes 32 women's styles (18 sunglasses and 14 ophthalmic frames, ranging from $150 to $225), many with a groovy suburban-mom-circa-1976 look. Shown here, the Katherine, $150.

▶ **KATE SPADE**
454 Broome Street/212-274-1991




New York
Shops
A GUIDE TO THE BEST STORES IN NEW YORK
1500 great stores for spring

Check out the spring 2001 issue of **New York Shops**, our guide to the city's best stores, including "Best Bets" for the home. On sale at newsstands April 20. To order a copy, call 800-496-7833 ($4.99 plus $2 shipping and handling).

Bag, left, photographed by Shin Ohira.

Sales & Bargains

BRIDIE CLARK

The Belt Way

Ribbon belts—those *Official Preppy Handbook* classics—are back and ready to snap some springtime color into your winter wardrobe without pinching your budget.

Belt it out: From left, Abercrombie & Fitch, Old Navy, Abercrombie, Stubbs & Wootton (3).

SPRING SHOWERS CAN DAMPEN anyone's enthusiasm for crisp new clothes—after all, nothing will wreck them faster than plodding through greasy New York puddles. So keep those prints and pleats clean (for the time being) and prep up your neutral same-olds with one of this season's grosgrain belts—you'll find just a sash of color can go a long way.

Stubbs & Wootton, granddaddy of the ribbon belt and other country-club staples, still belongs at the head of the table. It offers the most vivid flamingo pinks and tangiest lime greens—and at $24, a selection from its rainbow doesn't require a pot of gold. Knockoffs abound, but our favorites are **Old Navy**'s $7.50 skinny pastels, which add a nice touch to a pair of khakis, and **Abercrombie**'s bold, "I dipped into my brother's closet" stripes and solids ($19.50). Or treat yourself to **CK Bradley**'s cute and sturdy belts, named after her favorite sailboats and available at www.ckbradley.com or A Perfect Day in Paradise ($35–$38).

Stubbs & Wootton, 22 E. 72nd St., suite 2A (212-249-5200); Abercrombie & Fitch, 199 Water St. (212-809-9000); A Perfect Day in Paradise, 153 E. 70th St. (212-639-1414).

Picks of the Week

Monica Noel's trunk show offers exquisite children's clothing and linens—all for about 60 percent off, from $65 for an infant's smock dress to $35 for an embroidered pillow sham. *812 Park Ave., at 75th St., #2B (212-737-5960); cash only; Mon.-Wed. 9–5; 4/23–4/25.*

Charles Chang-Lima's sleek urban essentials are marked down by 70 to 80 percent. Shirts are $65–75; pants are $70–$85. *264 W. 40th St., bet. Seventh and Eighth Aves., tenth floor (212-302-3121); cash only; Thur.-Fri. 10–7, Sat. 10–2; 4/19–4/21.*

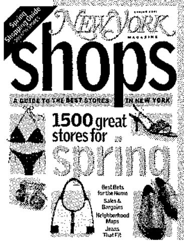
Leigh Bantivoglio lingerie is 30 percent off. You'll find colorful, ultrafeminine lace camisoles (from $52), panties (from $36), bras (from $33), and slips (from $80). *648 Broadway, bet. Bleecker and Bond Sts., suite 200A (212-420-9994); cash only; Wed.-Thurs. 10–6:30; 4/18–4/19.*

Knoll's entire collection of iconic modern furniture will be discounted by 55 percent, from $1,100 for a Gehry crosscheck chair to $320 for a twenty-inch-square Saarinen table. *105 Wooster St. (212-343-4125); A.E., M.C., V.; Fri. 12–7, Sat. 11–5; 4/20–4/21.*

Escada's sample sale means couture gowns that originally sold for $4,000–$8,000 are now $199–$599, and jackets, blouses, and jeans are more than 60 percent off. *560 Seventh Ave., at 40th St., second floor (718-747-1656); A.E., V., M.C.; Sun. 10–6, Mon.-Wed. 9–6:30; 4/22–4/25.*

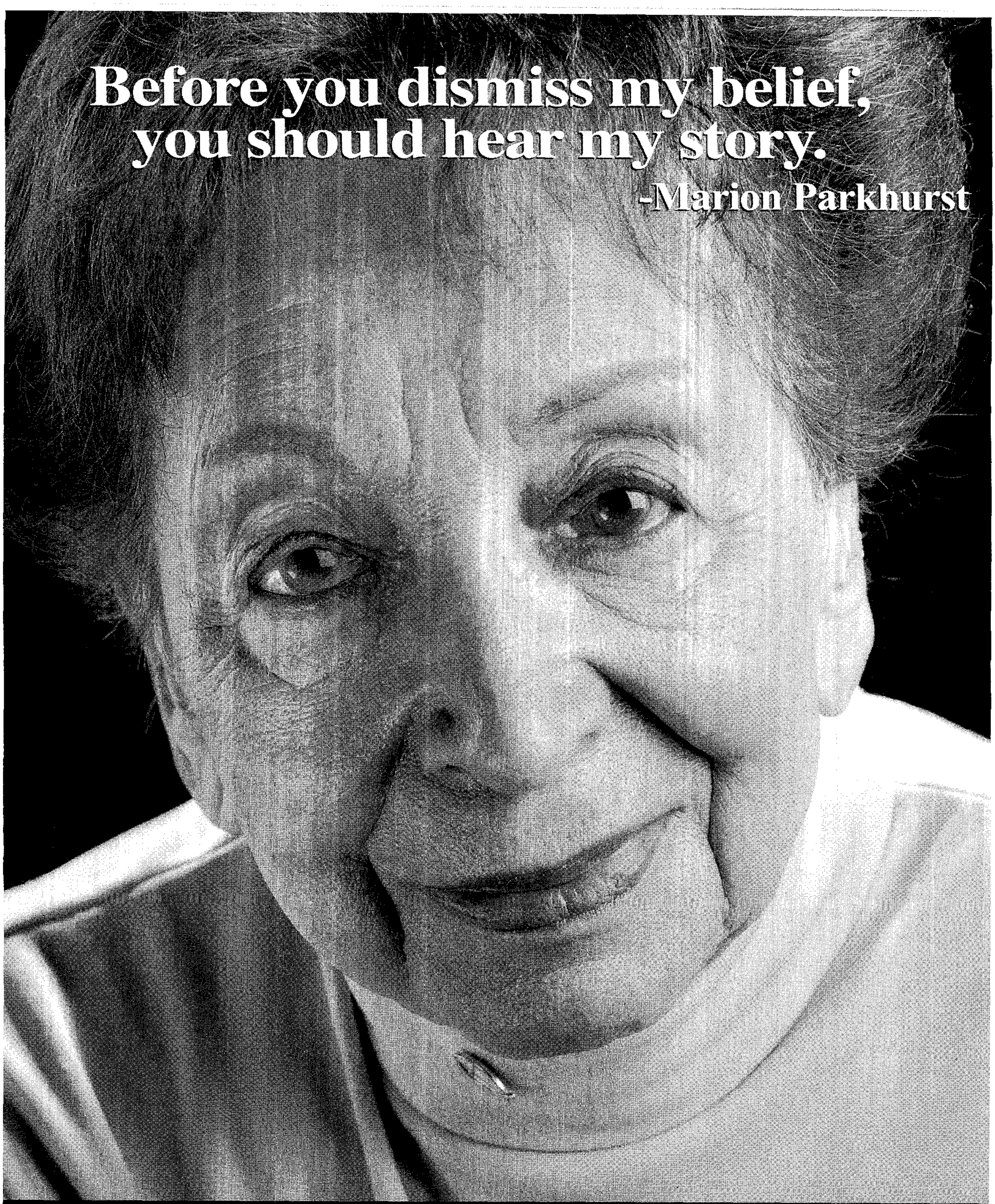
Aeffe's sample sale has spring clothing from Moschino, Alberta Ferretti, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Narciso Rodriguez, and Ozbek for men, women, and children. Small and medium sizes, $100–$800. *30 W. 56th St., first floor (212-632-9300); A.E, M.C., V.; Wed.-Fri. 10–5:30; 4/18–4/20.* ■

DO NOT PHONE: Send suggestions to "Sales & Bargains," New York Magazine, 444 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022-6999, four weeks before the sale.


New York
Shops
A guide to the best stores in New York
1500 great stores for spring

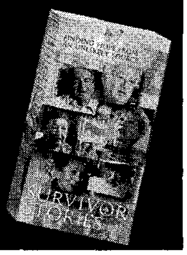
Check out the Spring 2001 issue of **New York Shops**, our guide to the city's best stores, including a six-month roundup of "Sales & Bargains." On sale at newsstands April 20. To order a copy, call 800-496-7833 ($4.99 plus $2 shipping and handling).

Photographed by Michael Kraus.

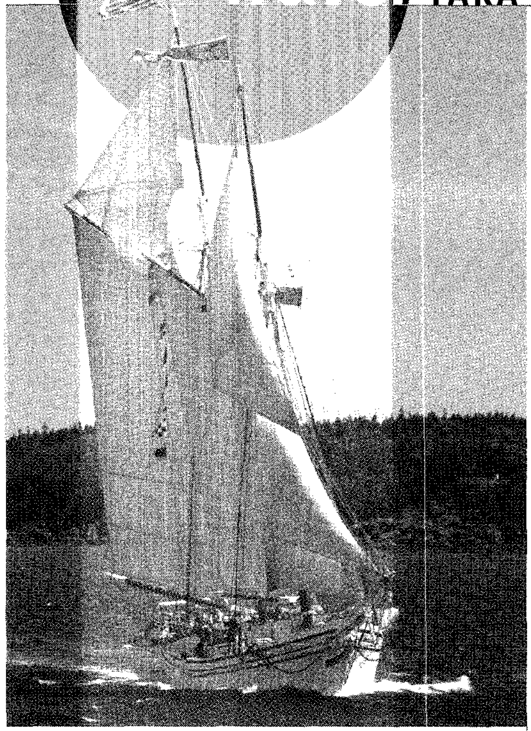

Before you dismiss my belief,
you should hear my story.
-Marion Parkhurst

'Some say you can't be Jewish and believe in Jesus. I disagree. But before you dismiss ny belief, you should know that in addition to being Jewish, I'm also a Holocaust Survivor. nd my decision to embrace Jesus came only after many years of soul searching and tudy. All I ask is that you hear my story and those of several other remarkable Jews who ave suffered greatly and now truly believe in Jesus." It's all in the Survivor Stories video and 's free. To order your copy of this important film, all 1-800-MESSIAH.

Jews for Jesus


SURVIVOR STORIES

TARA MANDY



Hoist the Maine Sail

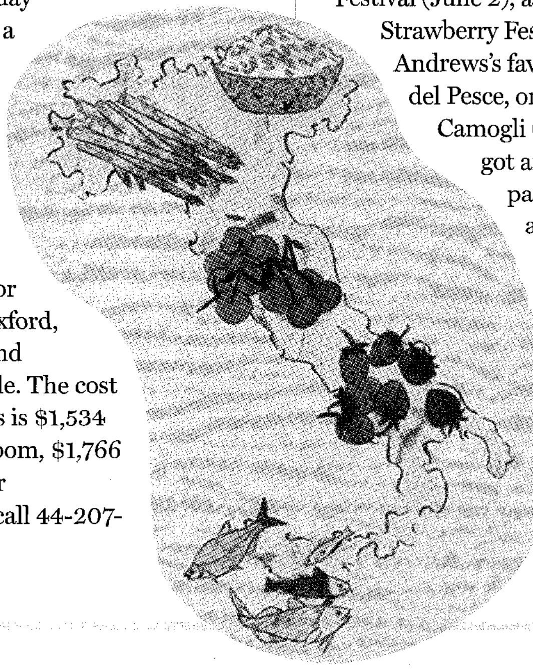
There are fantasy baseball camps and fantasy race-car-driving schools, but what about armchair sailors who live for C. S. Forester and Patrick O'Brian novels? The Maine Windjammer Association has the answer: thirteen traditional tall ships—including an 1871 freighter and a 1922 racing yacht—which they sail among Maine's 3,000 islands from May to October. The wooden schooners, between 64 and 132 feet in length, carry from 20 to 40 passengers, who feast on chowder and lobster while exploring coastal villages, watching seals, and hoisting sails or taking the helm as they please. Price per passenger ranges from $350 for three days to $625 for six, including meals. Call the MWA at 800-807-WIND or visit sailmainecoast.com.

Car and Away

Hotels are always trying to lure guests with economy-minded package deals, offering freebies like breakfast vouchers and complimentary champagne. But the Colonnade, one of London's hottest boutique hotels, has come up with something a little more likely to increase your pulse. Book a four-night stay, and you'll be able to make like James Bond (or at least Austin Powers) in your very own vintage roadster. Options include a '67 Jaguar, a '61 Porsche Speedster, and a '68 Mustang (pictured above). The "Drive on the Other Side" package includes two-day use of the car, a brief lesson on British road rules, and leather driving gloves, plus maps and information for day trips to Oxford, Cambridge, and Windsor Castle. The cost for four nights is $1,534 for a deluxe room, $1,766 for a suite. For reservations, call 44-207-286-1052.

Festival of Bites

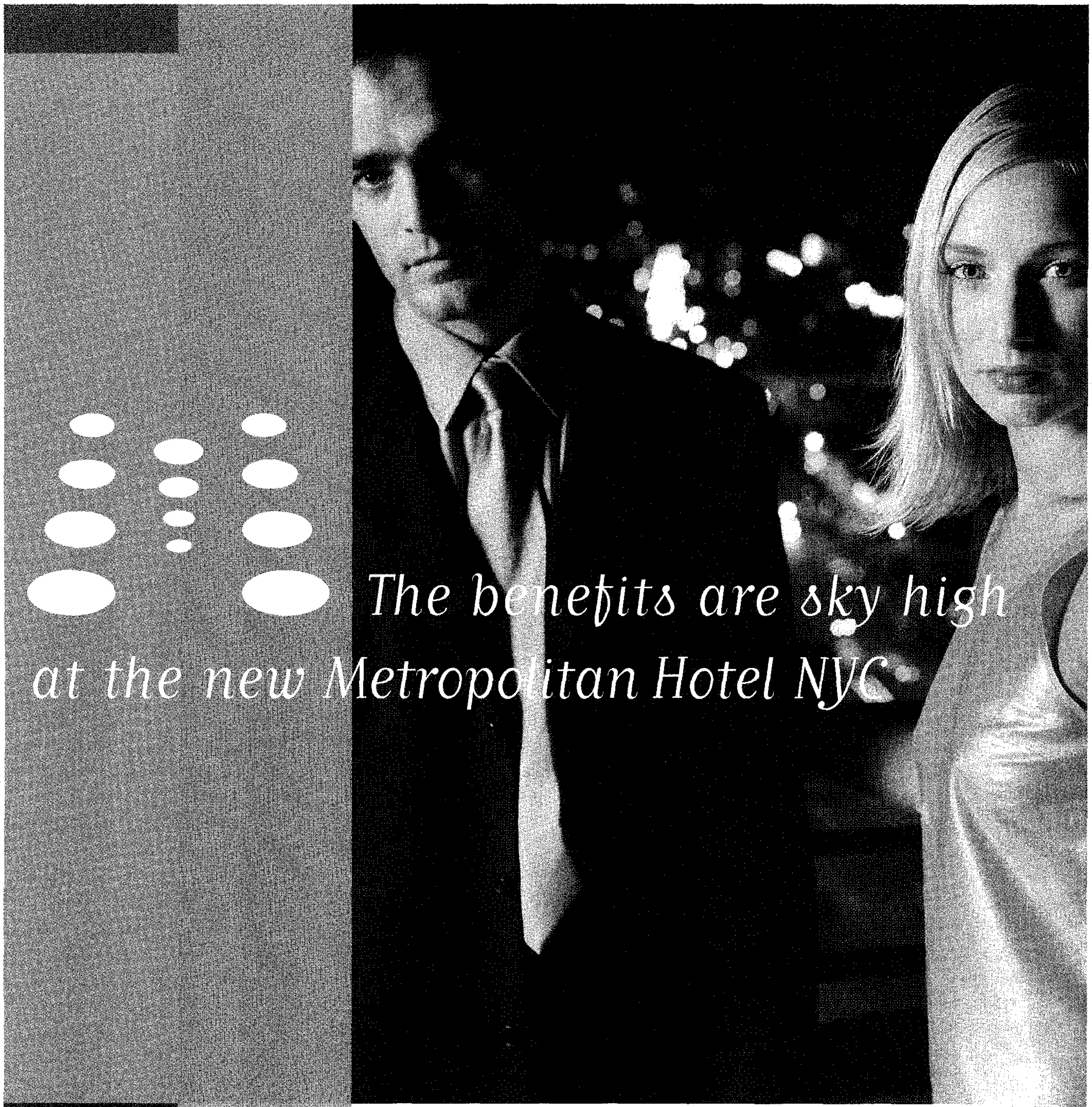
Leave it to the Italians to make a holiday out of asparagus. "Most Italian towns host annual food fests, or *sagre*, showcasing their prized dishes and seasonal ingredients," says *Saveur* editor-in-chief Colman Andrews, who eats in Italy as often as he can. "They range from 50 people cooking a vegetable to weeklong events with major attractions and thousands of visitors." Thanks to the spring harvest, May and June are the months to go. Among traveling foodies' favorites are Pergine Valsugana's Festival of Cherries (June 29–30), Mezzago's Asparagus Festival (May 12–13), Villimpenta's Rice Festival (June 2), and Marsigliana's Strawberry Festival (May 26–27). Andrews's favorite? The Sagra del Pesce, or Fish Festival, in Camogli (May 13). "They've got an immense frying pan—twelve feet across—and they fry fish all day. It's great!" For more details, see Carol Field's *Celebrating Italy* (HarperCollins, $20) or contact the Italian Tourist Board at 212-245-5618.



etc.

NORTHWEST PASSAGE JetBlue expands its cut-rate service this spring, offering new flights from New York to Seattle starting May 1, and to Denver May 17; 800-JET-BLUE or www.jetblue.com. **BORDER TOURS** Next month, the trekking and cycling outfitter Butterfield & Robinson is introducing a hike-and-bike tour of French Catalonia (also known as Languedoc-Roussillon), near France's border with Spain. Eight-day trips cost $4,395 a person, begin in Perpignan, and end in Toulouse; 800-678-1147 or butterfield.com. **BOSTON UNCOMMON** Visitors who want a touch of home while in New England should consider the Soho Suite, debuting next week at Boston's Colonnade Hotel. The $1,200-a-night room is modeled after a Prince Street loft, with a granite martini bar, stainless-steel furnishings, and a 42-inch TV; 800-962-3030. **POLE SURVIVOR** The 75 participants in the first-ever South Pole marathon (January 5, 2002) must race from 89.5 degrees longitude south to the pole itself, along a course of hard-packed snow in temperatures as low as 50 degrees below zero. To enter, call Adventure Network International at 561-347-7654 by June 30.

Photographs: left, Fred LeBlan; right, Corbis Images. Illustration by Annabelle Verhoye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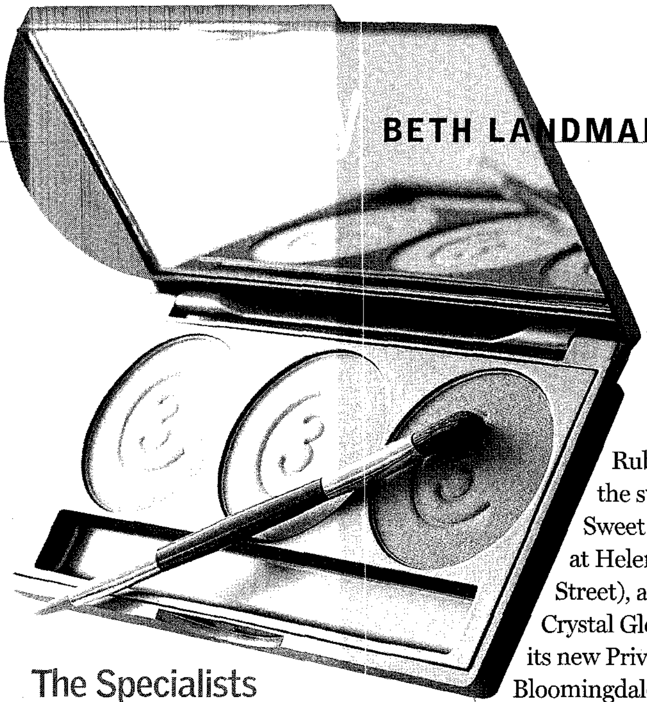


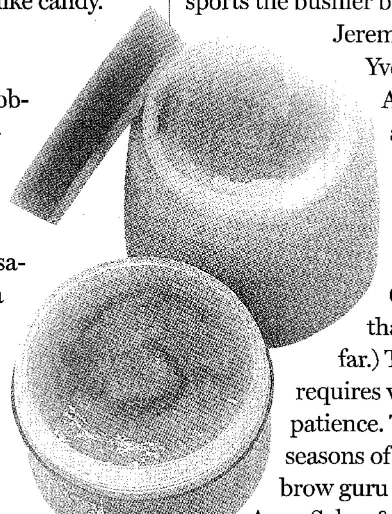
The Specialists

For more than three years, two former Kiehl's employees and an art-world pal have been creating couture cosmetics for clients like Penélope Cruz and Juliette Binoche at Three Custom Color Specialists. Now they've launched their first full ready-to-wear line, including mascara, lipsticks, brow powders, blush, and eye shadows. The shadows, which can be applied dry or wet, come in twenty colors, and each shade is available in either cool or warm tones to suit your skin. But don't fear: The company will still match those discontinued blushes and lipsticks you've loved since seventh grade. (Prices range from $12.50 to $45, at Henri Bendel, 712 Fifth Avenue, at 56th Street.)

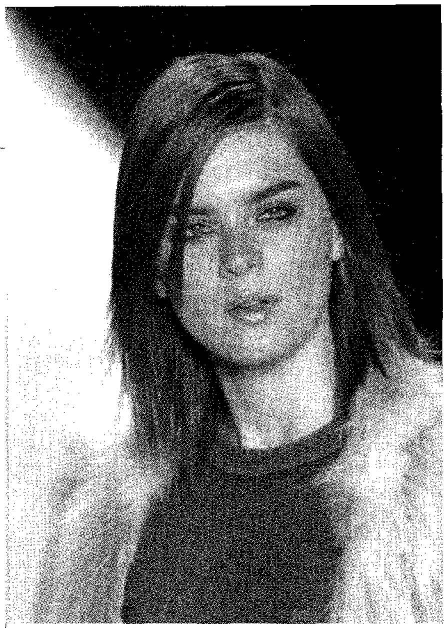
Sweet and Glow

Salt scrubs have long been the exfoliant of choice, but a sweeter abrasive is gaining ground: sugar scrubs, which are milder and less drying than their salty cousins. Gwyneth Paltrow has indulged in the treatment at the Thibiant Day Spa in Beverly Hills, and the Acqua Beauty Bar—which recently opened at 7 East 14th Street—offers a tasty brown-sugar glow, followed by a coconut-milk splash. Estée Lauder and Helena Rubinstein have packaged the stuff; Rubinstein sells a Sweet Sugar Body Scrub ($30 at Helena Rubinstein, 135 Spring Street), and Lauder has introduced Crystal Glow Sugar Rub as part of its new Private Spa Collection ($35 at Bloomingdale's and Saks Fifth Avenue). Estée Lauder also offers a professional application at its Bloomingdale's spa as part of a 75-minute Private Spa Getaway package ($120). All of which should leave you smelling like candy.

Tricomi's New 'Do



While we've been busily bobbing our hair, the Warren-Tricomi Salon has been quietly planning urban expansion. In June, the owners of the 57th Street salon are taking over the spa at The Sports Club/L.A. in Rockefeller Center, and by summer's end, they will open a second Warren-Tricomi salon at 18 West 23rd Street, in partnership with hairstylist Patrick Melville, whose clients include Catherine Zeta-Jones and Uma Thurman. The Flatiron spot will have two separate floors, one for hair and one for spa and nail services.



High Brow

You may be too demure to sport bumblebee stripes or Balenciaga frills, but another eighties-inspired trend is far easier to pull off: the Brooke Shields eyebrow. Model-of-the-moment Anouk sports the bushier brow, and designers Jeremy Scott, Tom Ford fo Yves Saint Laurent, and Ann Demeulemeester all sent beefy-browed models down the runway at their fall 2001 shows. (There were *unibrows* at Christian Dior, but that's taking things a bi far.) The wilder brow still requires work—and some patience. Thanks to several seasons of ultrathin arches, brow guru Eliza Petrescu at the Avon Salon & Spa says she's been sending women back home to wait for regrowth before she lays hands on them. "It takes six months to a year for brows to grow back," she explains. "As I've always told women: Think of the future of your face!" ARIEL LEVY

Editor's Pick

Linda Cantello Licks

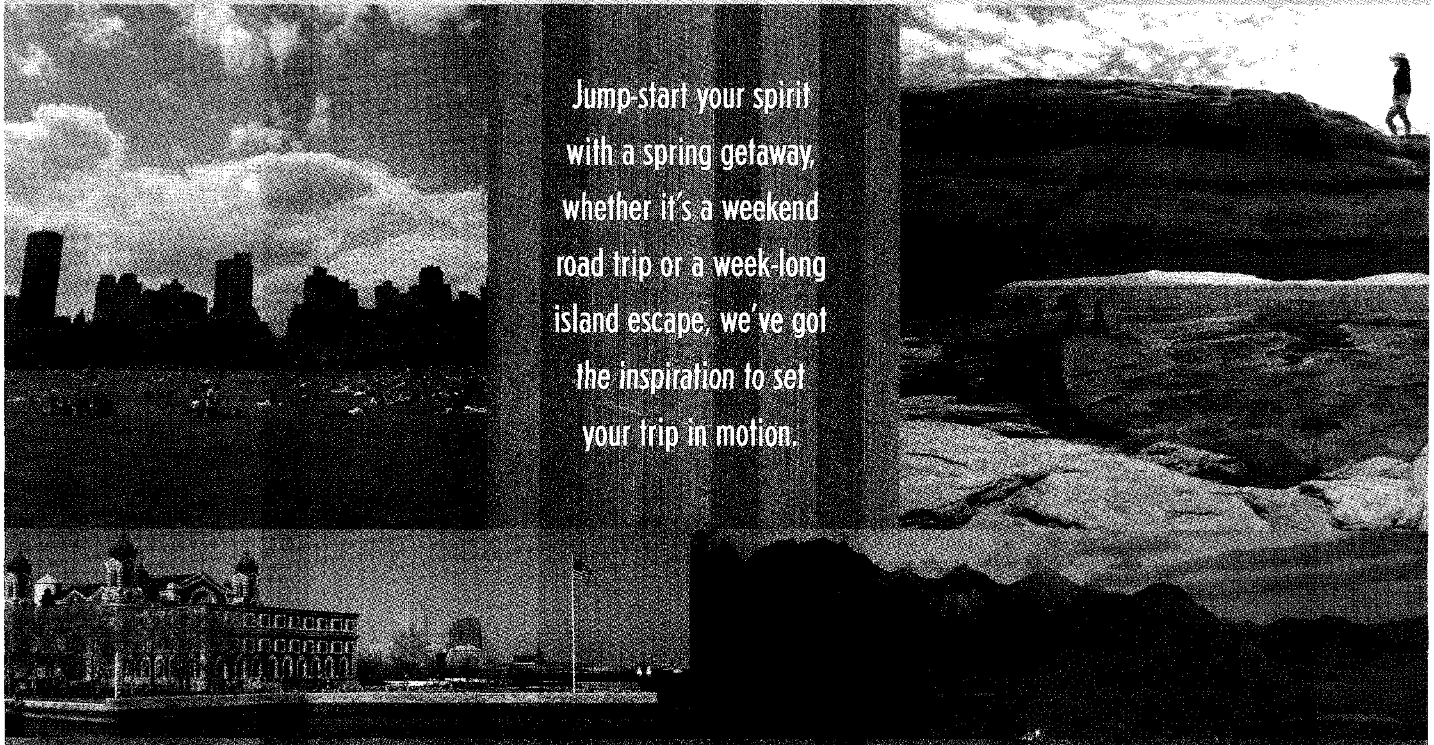
Makeup artist Linda Cantello is known for her wild looks on the runwa but her new cosmetic line, launching at Bergdorf Goodman April 17, is aime at real women. Her six lip glosses, called Licks, look vivid in the tube, but they ad only a subtle shine (plus smoothing infusions of vitamins E and B5, and beta-hydrox exfoliators) and skip the cloying fruit taste of most glosses in favor of herbal flavors lik cardamom, ginger, and rosemary ($16.50; 754 Fifth Avenue, at 57th Street).

Photographs: clockwise from top right, firstVIEW.com; Antonis Achilleos (3

Spring

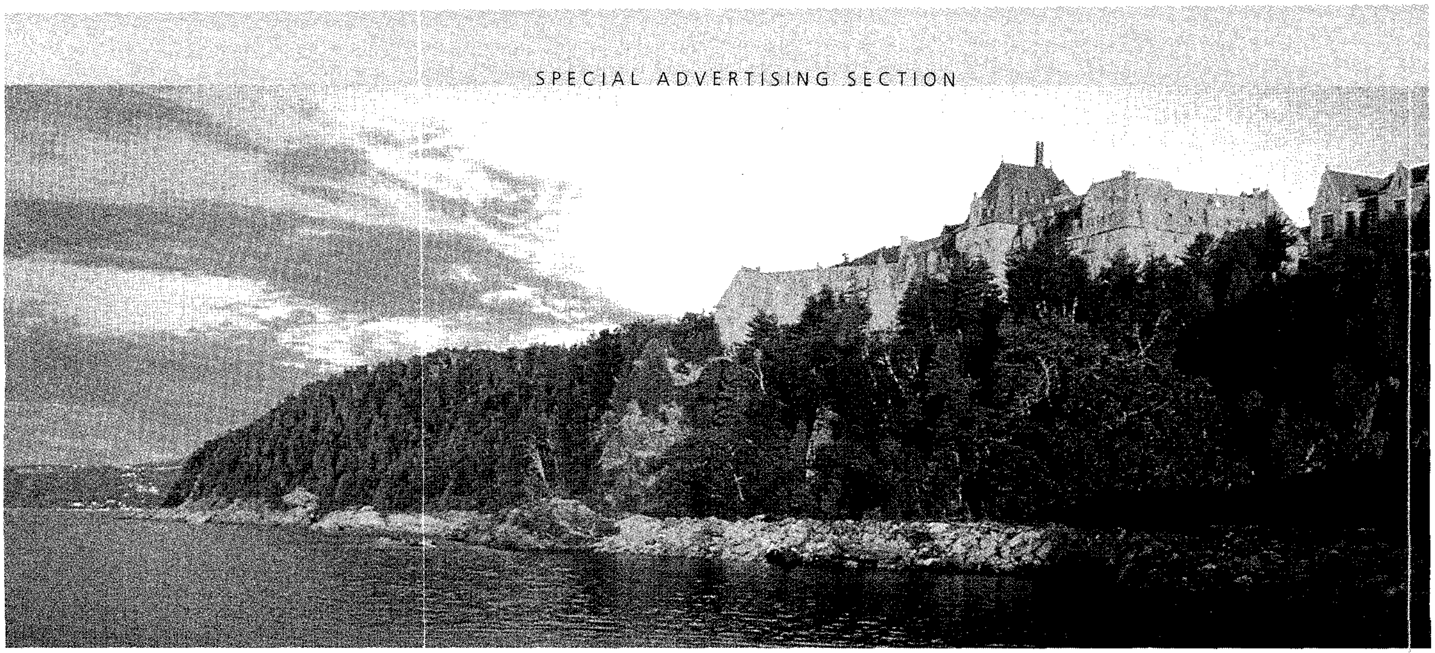
Getaways 2001

IT'S A SCENT IN THE AIR, THE FIRST SNOWDROPS AND CROCUSES PUSHING THROUGH MUDDY GROUND, EVEN IN MANHATTAN. IT'S THE FIRST ROBIN. IT'S LONGER DAYS WITH WARMTH ENOUGH TO SHED A WINTER COAT. IT'S SPRAYS OF YELLOW FORSYTHIA AT STREET-SIDE FLOWER STANDS AND IN THE CITY'S PARKS. IT'S SPRING AND IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT RENEWAL AND ESCAPE.



Jump-start your spirit with a spring getaway, whether it's a weekend road trip or a week-long island escape, we've got the inspiration to set your trip in motion.

BEVERLY HOOD ALLEN / CREATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR   CHRISTY CASAMASSIMA / EDITOR
BOLLE DESIGN / CREATIVE   TERESE LOEB KREUZER / WRITER   LORY CONKLIN / RESEARCH



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Because of its unspoiled forests, mountains and waterways, the Charlevoix region, where the hotel is located, has been designated a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. The hotel, which sits on 212 acres, is distinguished and friendly. A $140 million renovation completed in 1999 has re-created its turn-of-the-century elegance but with many improvements.

As they always have, today's guests can choose a horse from the hotel's stables or play croquet on the lawn, but now they can also swim in either an indoor or outdoor pool (heated and open year-round) and luxuriate in the spa.

In spring, summer, and fall, tennis, golf, hiking, mountain biking, trout fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and whitewater rafting – and most magical of all, whale watching – are at their doorstep. At night, they can dine in one of the hotel's three restaurants, play in the hotel's casino, or watch for shooting stars.

Because of the beauty of the scenery, many artists have chosen to settle in the Charlevoix region. The town of Baie St.-Paul, a pleasant 30-minute drive away, has many art galleries including some where visitors can see the artists at work.

Through April 29, the Richelieu is offering an incredibly priced package of three nights' accommodations, airfare from New York City to Quebec and transfers to and from the hotel for $399 per person (double occupancy). For more information on this package, available only through Liberty Travel, call 1-877-999-3914. For other reservations, call 1-800-441-1414.

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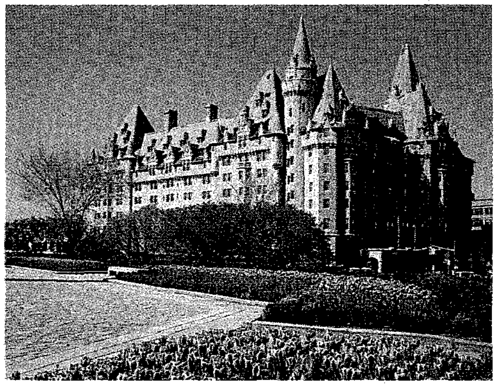
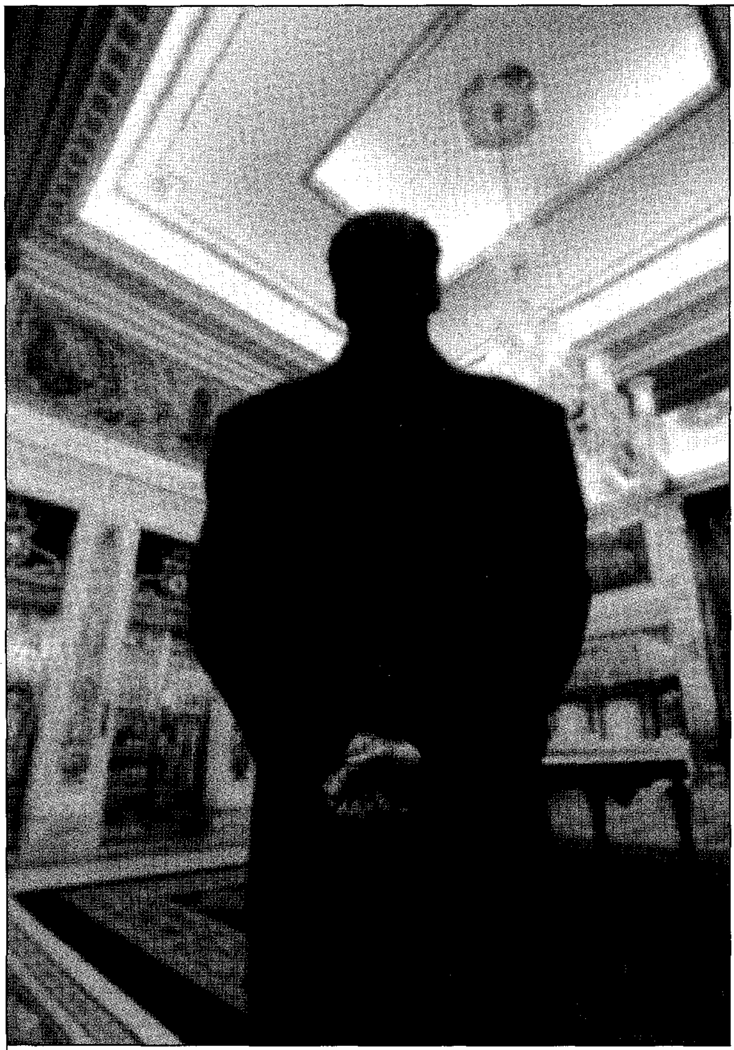
The award-winning Chateau Laurier is the perfect place from which to enjoy the annual Tulip Festival or to sample Ottawa's fine restaurants, museums, and world-class entertainment.



FAR RIGHT: Chateau Laurier



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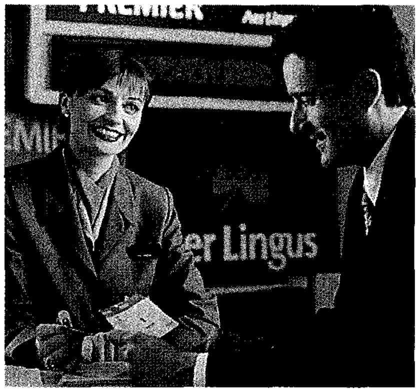
Getaway to the Emerald Isle



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IRELAND GLOWS WITH BRILLIANT SHADES OF GREEN, ESPECIALLY IN SPRINGTIME. GRASS AS THICK AS A LAMB'S PELT COVERS GENTLE HILLS. IF you've never been there, this is the time to go. If you have been to Ireland, this is the time to return.

Dublin, the capital, is one of the oldest cities in Europe, with world-famous theater and concert halls, friendly pubs and outstanding restaurants. It is filled with lovely tree-lined squares and handsome Georgian houses.

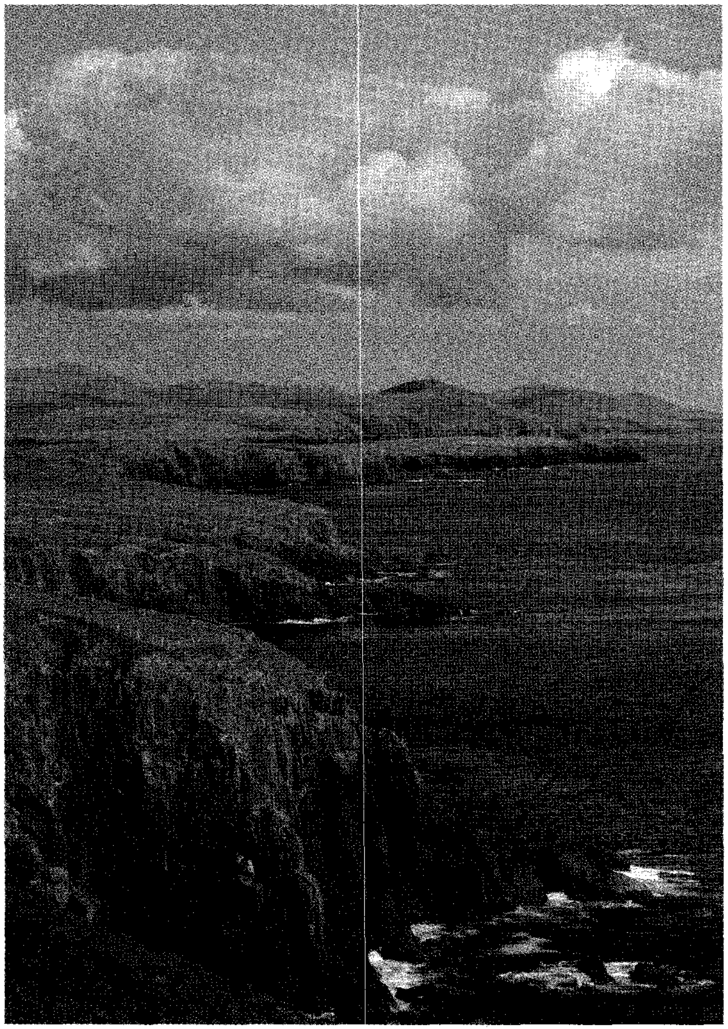
Just south of Dublin is Wicklow, known for its mountains, lakes, valleys and seacoast. Here, you can visit the ruins of the Glendalough monastery, founded in 570 A.D. by St. Kevin, who is said to have spoken with words of fire.

Kildare is Ireland's horse breeding and racing capital, while Kilkenny is Ireland's best preserved medieval town. History, mystery, and legend are the stuff of daily life here.

Aer Lingus, the national airline of Ireland, will make your visit to Ireland easy to plan. The airline offers reasonably priced vacation packages that include an Avis car rental and accommodations in bed and breakfasts, fine hotels, Irish country manors, and historic castles.

In Dublin, you can stay in some of the city's finest three- to five-star hotels with no minimum or maximum stay requirements and a full Irish breakfast.

When you're ready to explore the countryside, the airline's Go-As-You-Please Vacations give you total flexibility and great value. You travel at your own pace with open-dated, pre-paid vouchers. You decide how many nights you want to stay, and what kind of accommodations you require.



If you wish to stay in B&Bs, where you will be hosted by an Irish family, try the Go-As-You-Please B&B Vacation. You will have over 1,000 B&Bs from which to choose, all owned and run by members of the Irish Farmhouse and Town & Country Homes Associations.

Or perhaps you would prefer to stay in a castle or manor house. All are set amidst breathtaking scenery. Most are famous for their food and wine and are featured in leading hotel and food guides. All offer impeccable service.

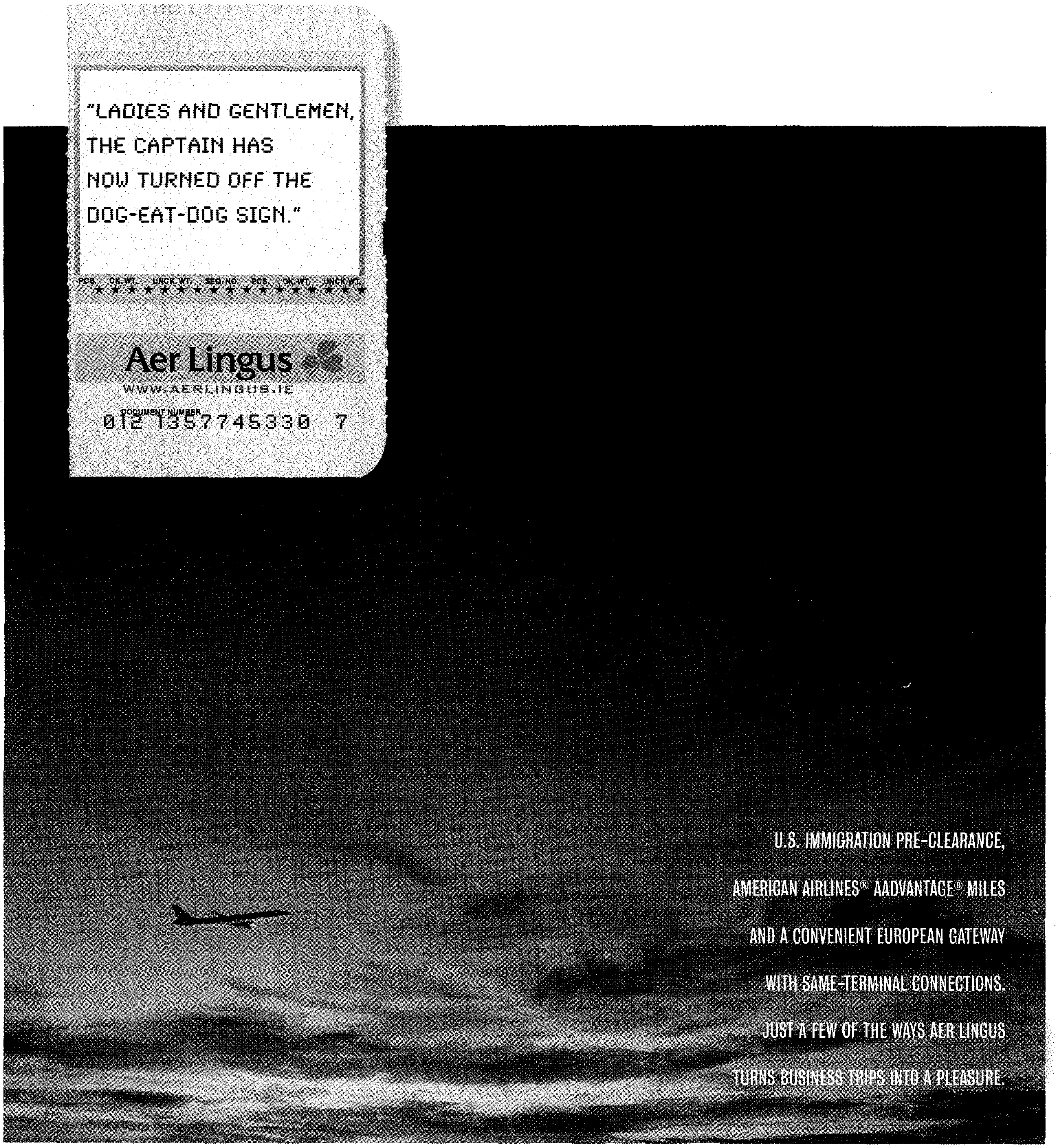
If you opt to stay in Go-As-You-Please hotels, you can choose from among 300 modern hotels and small family-owned inns.

You can supplement your accommodation and transportation package with a range of entertainment, sightseeing, and transportation features such as cabaret dinner shows, literary pub crawls, audio walking tours, medieval banquets, evenings of ceili (traditional Irish music, song, and dance) and an Irish Explorer Rail and Bus Pass.

The minimum stay for Go-As-You-Please Vacations is three nights. Package prices are guaranteed regardless of currency fluctuations once payment has been received.

Aer Lingus flights to Dublin leave and arrive daily from both John F. Kennedy and Newark International Airports.

In addition the airline flies to Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cork, Edinburgh, Galway, Glasgow, Kerry, Leeds, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Shannon, Sligo, Amsterdam, Brussels, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Madrid, Milan, Munich, Paris, Rome, Stockholm, and Zurich.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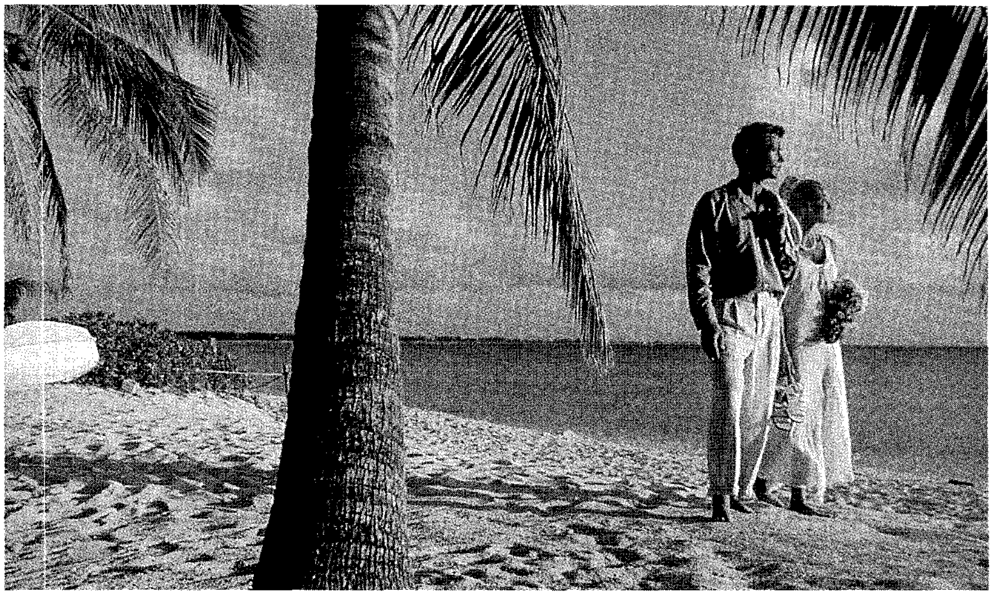


GRAND CAYMAN'S FAMED SEVEN MILE BEACH (ACTUALLY ONLY FIVE MILES LONG) CURVES LIKE A SILVER SCIMITAR ALONG THE NORTHWEST COAST OF THE ISLAND, FLANKED BY A STRING OF HIGH-RISE HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND SHOPS. IT'S THE KIND of silky, smooth crescent of pure white sand that makes a visitor who is pale from a northern winter exhale deeply and collapse into a lounge chair. If you're like many tourists to the Cayman Islands in the western Caribbean, you might be tempted to head straight to Seven Mile Beach from the airport and never leave except to eat, sleep, and dive. Formed over millennia by coral deposits, the British-Commonwealth Cayman Islands (Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Cayman Brac) offer some of the best scuba diving in the world.

However, Grand Cayman also has a unique attraction for snorkelers, Stingray City. Here, in shallow waters, fishermen traditionally cleaned their fish and threw away what they couldn't use. The clever stingrays caught on to this and congregated there. Now, tourists arrive daily to snorkel with stingrays who have venomous tails that they use in self-defense, but who are basically docile. It's a thrill to feel their large, velvety bodies brush against your legs.

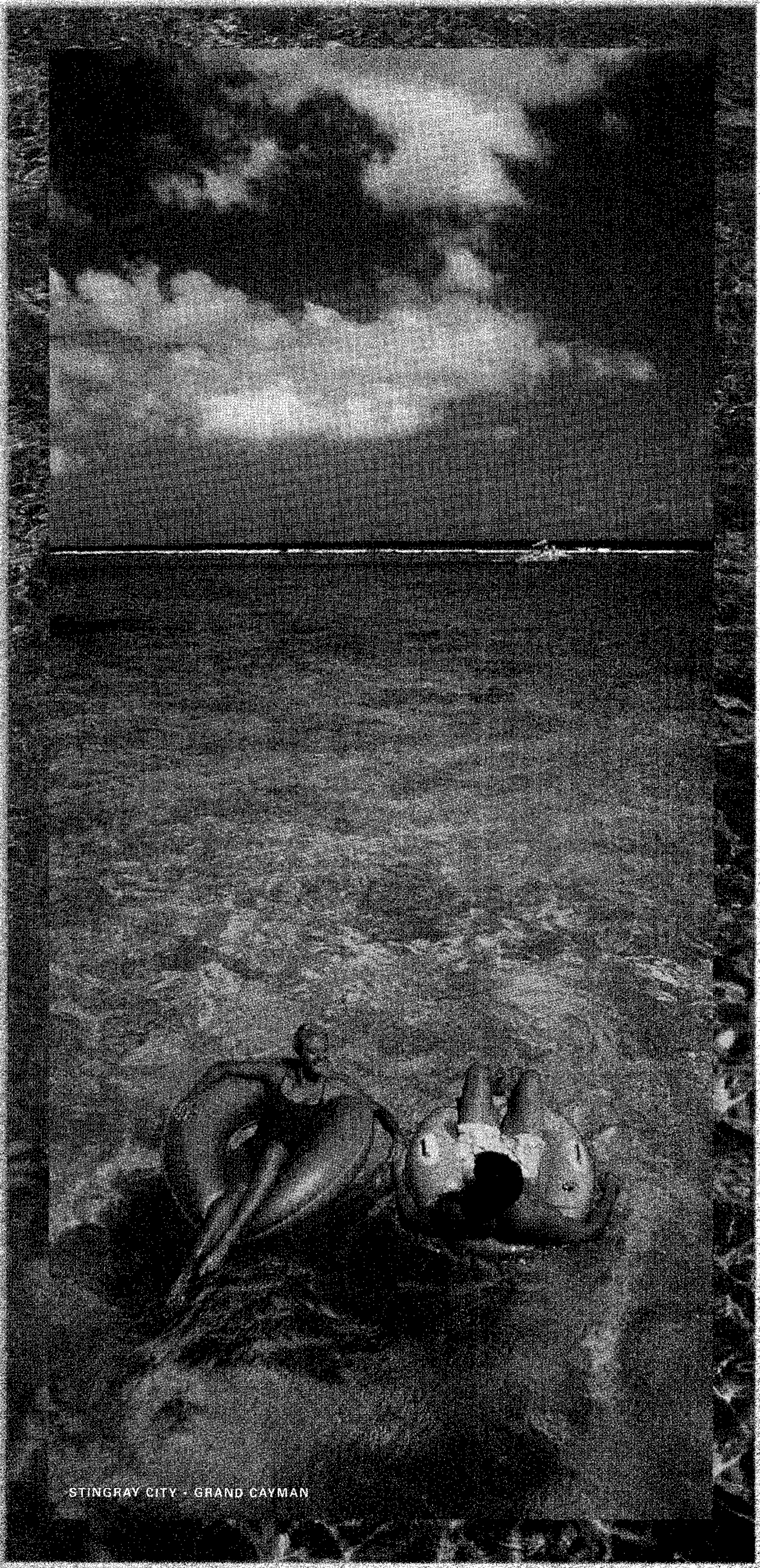
Though Seven Mile Beach is exquisite, the rest of Grand Cayman is just as rewarding. George Town, the bustling capital of the Cayman Islands, has an interesting museum with exhibits about the way the islands used to be before tourism and off-shore banking made these islands the most prosperous in the Caribbean.

At the museum you can pick up informative walking tour booklets of George Town, Bodden Town (the Cayman Islands' first capital) and central West Bay that will direct you to places of historic interest.

Should you be on-island in May, you can attend the annual Batabano Carnival in downtown George Town where concession stands serve Caribbean cuisine and costumed revelers dance to the music of soca and calypso bands.

Bodden Town, a 20-minute drive from George Town, is old-fashioned and quiet. A short distance beyond Bodden Town is a superb botanical garden, the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, and the Mastic Trail, first created two hundred years ago when traversing the island by land could take days and most people went by sea.

If you like the quiet, old-fashioned ways, take a short plane ride to Little Cayman or Cayman Brac. The "Sister Islands" have more birds than people. In fact, Little Cayman with a permanent population of more than 100, didn't get electricity until 12 years ago. But there are several lovely resorts on both of the Sister Islands and there's no better place in the world to kick back and relax.



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It's warm. You float aimlessly. Our Caribbean Sea is calm and the colour of turquoise. You are experiencing the fine art of relaxing, Cayman Islands style.

Beneath these waters, a world teeming with life exists. From friendly stingrays to tropical fish flecked with vibrant pinks and golds, this is a place like no other, with a style like no other.

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Here is the place to explore underwater grottos, caverns, reefs and tunnels. To rise with the birds or celebrate dusk with a blazing red sunset. To bask on miles of sun-kissed beaches or simply lose the importance of time.

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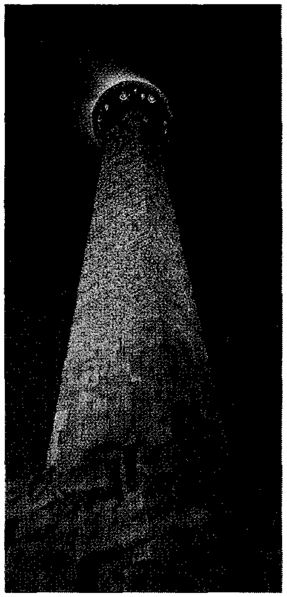
IF YOU THINK THAT IF YOU'VE SEEN ONE CASINO, YOU'VE SEEN THEM ALL, MOHEGAN SUN IN UNCASVILLE, CONNECTICUT WILL PROBABLY CAUSE YOU TO CHANGE YOUR MIND. THIS HANDSOME CASINO IS A MUCH A TESTIMONY TO THE HISTORY OF THE MOHEGAN TRIBE, to whom this resort belongs, as it is a first-class entertainment center. The Mohegans, whose name means "Wolf People," a clan of the Lenni Lenape Indians, migrated to Connecticut in the 17th century.

Their casino is divided into four areas, each correlated with a season of the year and with a direction on the compass.

Spring, according to the Mohegans, is the "Season of Beginnings." Visitors who come through the casino's Spring Entrance see a giant skin overhead painted with hands giving thanks for corn, women fertilizing corn with fish, and women planting corn in mounds. Dogwood trees surround the slot machines and gaming tables, and the carpet is decorated with wildflowers.

Other sections of the casino are decorated with motifs appropriate to summer, fall, and winter.

The Mohegan Sun is a fascinating place to visit, both for those who want to try their luck and for those who just want to shop, eat, listen to the entertainers who perform daily, or look around.



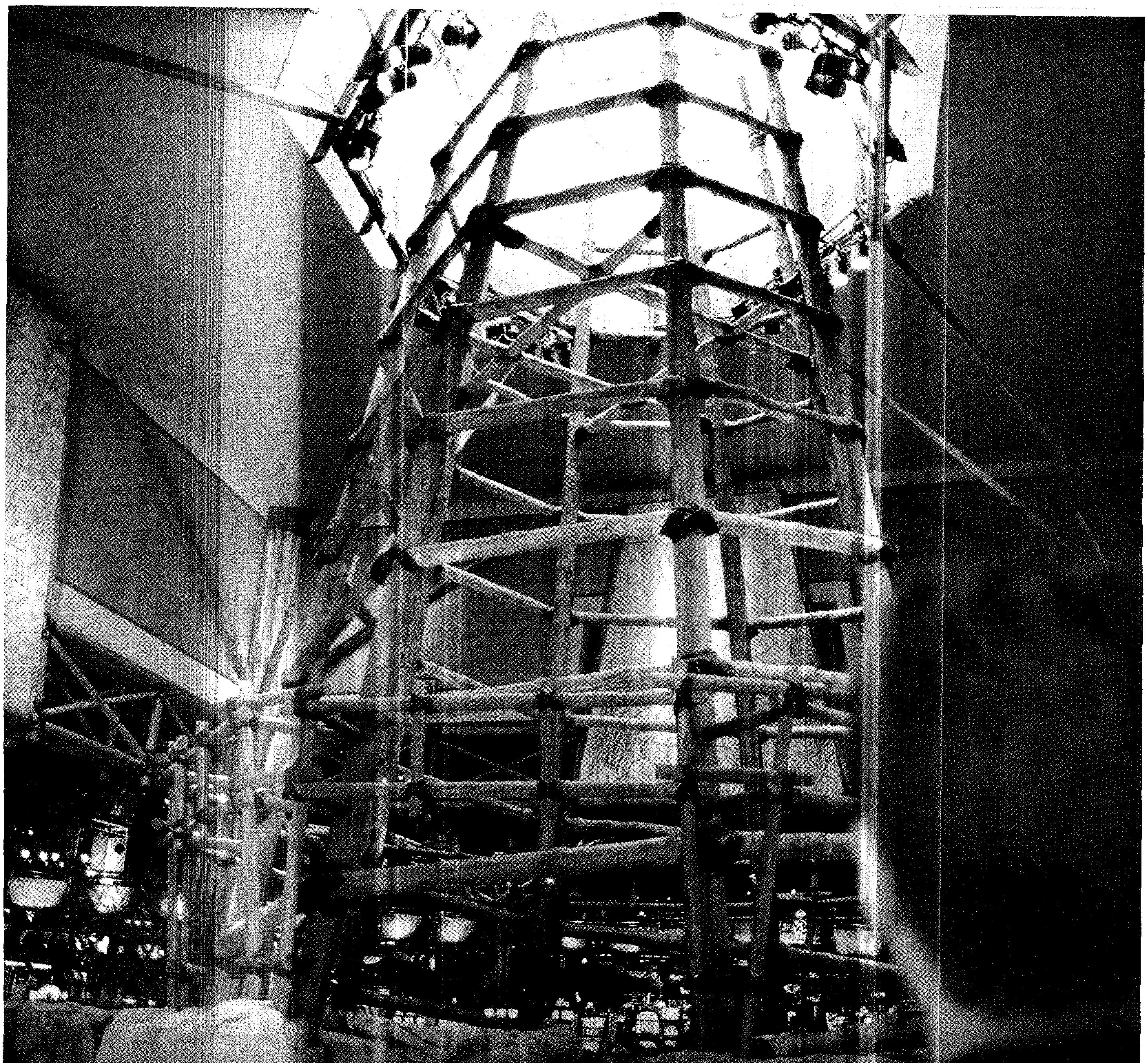
There's even a 10,000 square-foot children's center with licensed, supervised childcare professionals for children 4-12 years old. And, in the center of the Mohegan Sun, you'll find the Wolf Den which offers free music with no cover and no minimum. In addition, headliners come to the 5,000-seat Uncas Pavilion which has hosted everything from Connecticut's first heavyweight boxing title championship to performers such as BB King, Wynonna Judd, and Reba McEntire.

Mohegan Sun is undergoing an expansion that will more than triple the size of the property. A 10,000-seat arena and a 300-seat cabaret are to open this October.

The food at the Mohegan Sun is superb. There are more than 20 food and beverage outlets including three excellent restaurants. The Longhouse offers prime beef and fresh, local seafood. Italian cuisine is featured at Pompeii and Caesar, while Bamboo Forest is the place for wonderful Asian cuisine.

Beer drinkers flock to the Micro-Brew Pub, located in the Race Book, for fresh-brewed beers and seasonal brews prepared on the premises. Shoppers will find Native American and other handicrafts, gift items, fashion and jewelry, and a wide selection of apparel with the Mohegan Sun logo.

Although the resort does not currently have its own hotel (a 1,200-room luxury hotel tower will open in April, 2002) there are many places to stay in the area ranging from chains such as Best Western, the Holiday Inn, and Days Inn, to charming bed-and-breakfasts and old-fashioned inns. For more information on lodging and attractions, contact Mystic Coast & Country (1-860-599-8812) or Connecticut's Mystic & More (1-860-444-2206).



The average distance from one "Wow, look at that," to the next "Wow, look at that": 4 feet.

Want to get away from your normal, everyday routine? Then go somewhere close that is far from normal, everyday or routine. We're conveniently located just minutes off I-395. Take Exit 79A in Uncasville, CT. Visit us on the web at mohegansun.com. Or call 1.888.226.7711.

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RIGHT IN NEW YORK CITY'S BACK YARD ARE 127 MILES OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BEACHES IN AMERICA. MAYBE WE DON'T THINK OF THEM THAT WAY BECAUSE THEY'RE THERE.

Wild Wood

Photo: ©1996 Barrow, Courtesy of the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission

In the days before air conditioning, people from New York, Philadelphia, and Newark built large summer homes on the New Jersey shore. They sat on wicker furniture and sipped cool drinks.

During the heat of the day, they put on bathing costumes and waded into the ocean. They walked the beaches looking for shells and crabs. Striped awnings covered their windows to keep out the sun.

They promenaded up and down boardwalks, enjoying the breeze. They went to amusement parks and shrieked when the Tornado spun around a sharp curve. They rode the carousel and went to see Lucy, the Margate elephant, six stories tall and 90 tons.

It's all still there – the Atlantic Ocean breaking on wide, sandy beaches and the air smelling of salt. Even Lucy is still there. The Margate elephant is now a marine museum.

The Jersey shore runs from Sandy Hook in the north to Cape May in the south. Some of the top boardwalk attractions are in the north – the Keansburg Amusement Park, the boardwalk at Seaside Heights with its outstanding water park, Island Beach State Park, with over 3,000 unspoiled acres for swimming and picnicking. Further south, the six-mile boardwalk at Atlantic City is still a favorite promenade with 12 casino resorts offering big-name entertainment, world championship sports, and superb dining.

South of Atlantic City is Ocean City with its Music Pier and more than two miles of miniature golf and other family activities. Then come the Wildwoods with their spectacular beaches and dazzling array of shops, restaurants, arcades, whale watching tours, and amusement piers. The town's beloved Art Deco motels have recently become the focus of a major preservation campaign.

Finally, at the very tip is Victorian Cape May, a National Historic Landmark. Many of the town's remarkable houses have been converted into bed-and-breakfasts. As they did 100 years ago, guests still sit on verandas on spring or summer evenings sipping cool drinks.

Barnegat Light, Long Beach Island

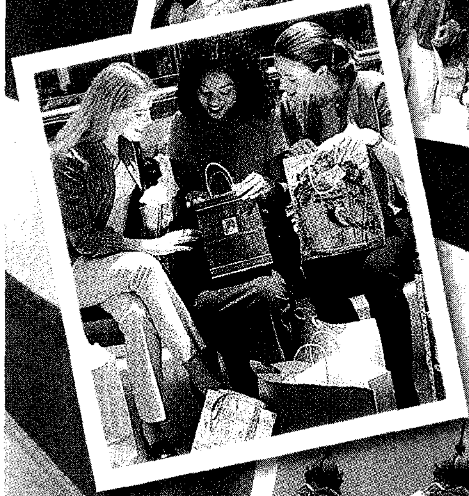
Photo: © Bohm-Marrazzo 1998, Courtesy of the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission

Sandy Hook

Photo: ©1995 Barrow, Courtesy of the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission

Jersey Shore

Old Barracks, Trenton



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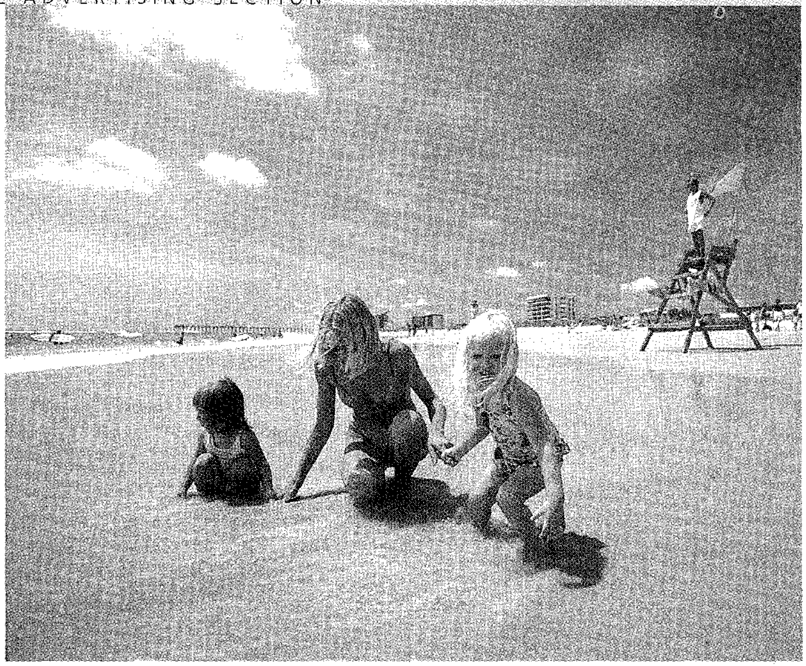
Miami



YOU'LL COME HERE TO FIND YOUR SOUL. YOU'LL GO HOME LEAVING SOME OF IT BEHIND. SURRENDER YOUR SOUL TO MIAMI during the Soul Beach Music Festival* presented by Verizon, from May 30-June 3.

The Soul Beach Music Festival will feature outstanding performances by the artists you want to see the most. The festival will highlight contemporary soul music artists who are rooted in the traditions of this great music. Tremendous onstage performances, reminiscent of the old school days, will be the norm during each concert.

Who's on your wish list? What artists would you like to see on stage together? Well, those neoclassic soul performers out there today are hot, and Verizon will be bringing a number of them to Miami to set it off.

And while the music is touching you down to your very core, enjoy everything else Miami has to offer: beaches, nightlife, outdoor dining, shopping. Call 1-888-76-MIAMI or visit TropicoolMiami.com for your free *2001 Vacation Guide*. And don't forget to ask for your *Miami Beach Summer 2001 Guide* with details on other great events.

*Tickets may be purchased by calling 1-800-297-2796.

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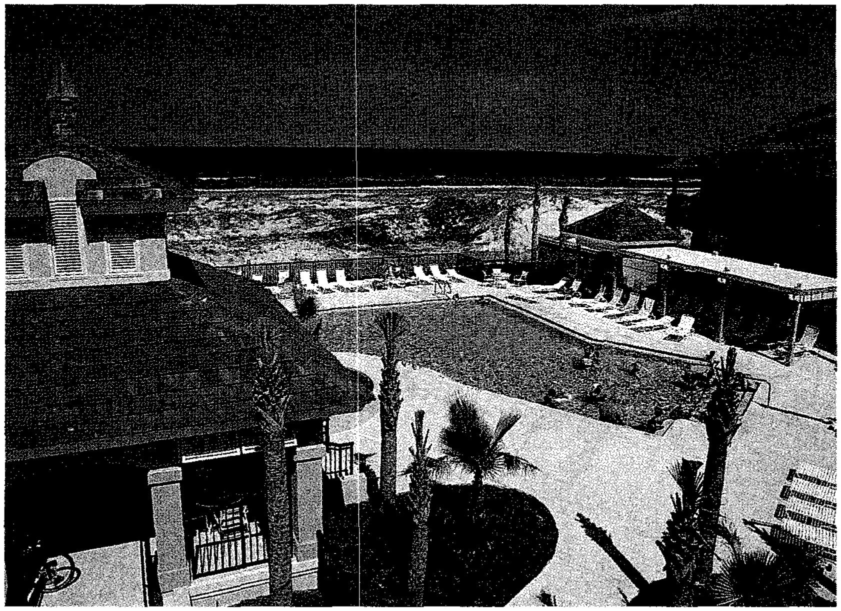
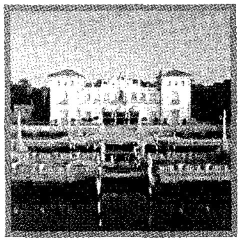
That doorstep can be a fully-equipped condominium or townhouse. Or a one- to four-bedroom penthouse or villa with an ocean or poolside view. Choose among Summer Beach Village, Sea Chase, or Ocean Place condominiums. Not to worry – you can't go wrong. The accommodations are sumptuous and fully appointed.



And, just beyond your doorstep? Kayaking trips, horseback riding, wildlife, fresh and saltwater fishing. An immense array of bird, marine, and animal life inhabiting the island's marshes and waters. The rare Loggerhead turtle; and, in the fall, Right Whales, calving. Dine at more than 40 restaurants of many cuisines. Visit a restored historic district and the Amelia Island Museum of History.

Best of all, autumn sees a dramatic rate reduction at Summer Beach Resort. Visitors save nearly 30 percent over the summer season. Plus, if you've visited before, an additional 10-percent repeat visitors' discount will be added. But, if you've never visited, a 10-percent first-timers discount on an ocean unit is yours simply by saying you saw it here in *New York*.



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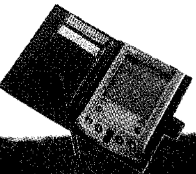

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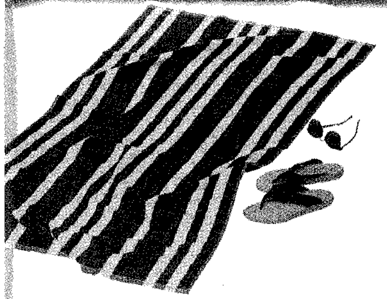

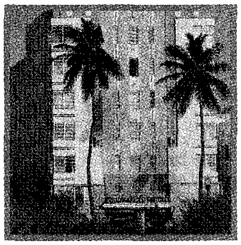

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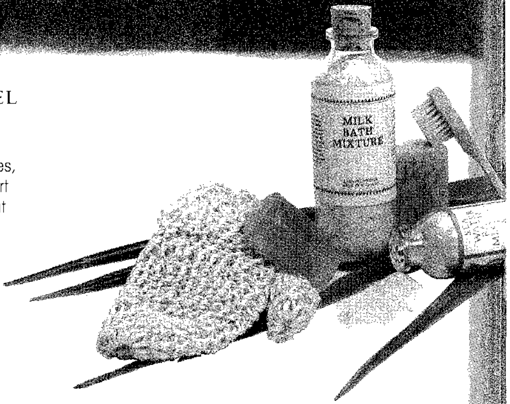

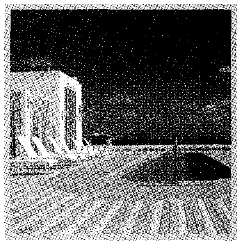

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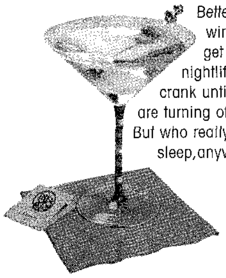
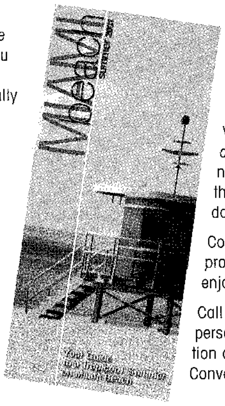


Better catch some winks before you get here – our nightlife doesn't really crank until most cities are turning off their lights. But who really needs sleep,anyway?



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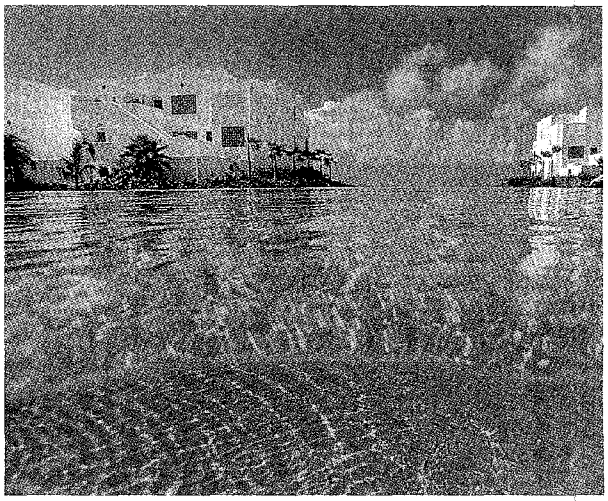


THINK SPRING IN THE CARIBBEAN. THINK SPRING AS YOU FLOAT EFFORTLESSLY IN WARM, TURQUOISE WATER, or snorkel, looking for a rainbow of fish. think scuba diving among pillars of coral.

Think perfumed gardens of brightly colored flowers and days of dazzling sunshine. Think eating fresh fish and sweet, just-picked fruit. Think shopping for handmade crafts or clothing from all over the world. Think not having to wear anything but shorts, sandals, and a bathing suit. Think a multicultural heritage, friendly, interesting people, and the warm, lilting cadences of the islands.

If this appeals and you want and savor the best in luxury travel, The Leading Hotels of the World has a spring Caribbean treat for you. Between May 1 and Sept. 30, the organization that represents more than 350 five-star properties throughout the world is offering a plan called "Caribbean Indulgence."

For $255 per person per night, you can stay in one of the most magnificent hotels in the Caribbean. The price includes a welcome gift and amenities, early check-in and late check-out, airport roundtrip transfers at the destination and free use of non-motorized water sports, tennis, and health club facilities. The minimum stay is four nights.

As an added bonus, if you participate in the Caribbean Indulgence program, you will be enrolled in the Leaders Club which brings you a welcome gift and room upgrades whenever you stay in a Leading Hotels of the World property.

Among the hotels participating in Caribbean Indulgence are the Sandy Lane in Barbados, Cap Juluca and the CuisinArt Resort & Spa in Anguilla, Parrot Cay Resort and Shambhala Spa in Turks & Caicos, Hotel Guanahani in St. Barthelemy, La Samanna in St. Martin, and the Cotton House in Mustique.

If a hotel is a member of The Leading Hotels of the World, it is your guarantee of the highest standards of luxury quality and service. A limited number of member hotels are culled from the many that apply. Each is inspected repeatedly (and anonymously) to ensure that it meets the organization's standards for accommodations, cuisine, and service.

May in Monaco

MONACO GOVERNMENT TOURIST OFFICE
1-800-753-9696
www.monaco-tourism.com

THERE IS NO MORE GLAMOROUS PLACE ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA THAN THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO. ONLY THREE MILES LONG AND A HALF-MILE WIDE, THE OLD TOWN AND THE NEWER MONTE CARLO ARE PERCHED ON CLIFFS OVERLOOKING THE MEDITERRANEAN. Monte Carlo's famous casino with its copper-clad roof is a Belle Epoque masterpiece. Behind the casino is a stunning terraced park, filled with flowers and fountains.

Enormous white yachts fill Monaco's harbor. Elegant shops line its avenues and boulevards. Sleek sports cars move through its palm-shaded streets. Its legendary spa, Les Thermes Marins de Monte-Carlo revives pleasure seekers for the rigors of the night ahead when they may want to dine, drink, gamble, and dance until dawn.

Spring is a special time in Monaco. The weather is perfect, as always, welcoming visitors to the Spring Arts Festival from April 13 to May 13. Talented artists come from around the globe to entertain guests with music, art, theater, and dance at venues throughout the Principality.

May brings the Annual World Music Awards (this year on May 2) and the Laureus World Sports Awards (on May 22), which honor the world's best sportsmen and sportswomen for their achievements.

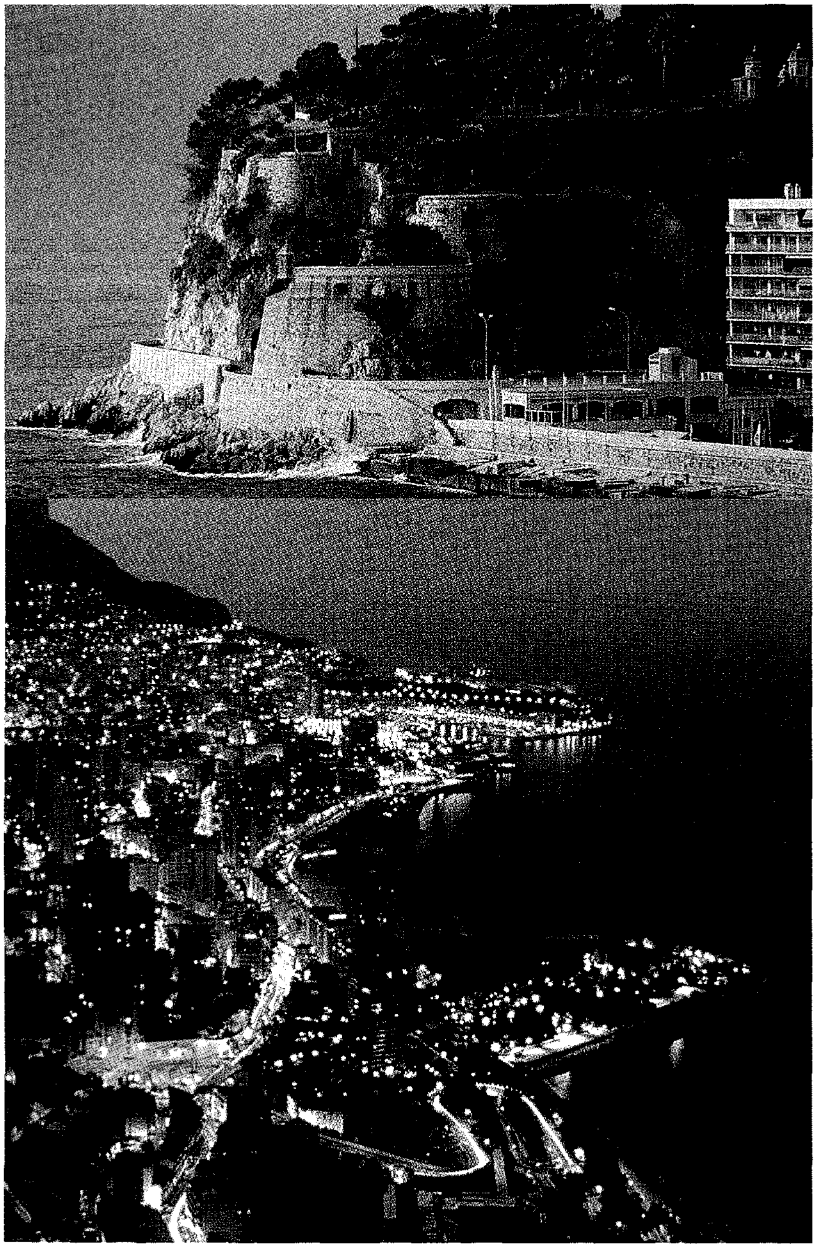
From May 24-27, Monaco becomes the world's most spectacular racetrack as it attracts sports car fans from around the globe for the 59th annual Monaco Grand Prix.

And on May 19 is the third annual QVC "Cure by the Shore" fundraiser for the benefit of the Entertainment Industry Foundation's National Women's Cancer Research Alliance. This star-studded event will be broadcast live.

Although many of Monaco's hotels are among the most luxurious in the world, special packages make them very affordable. A two-night package, "Celebration 2001," at the Monte Carlo Grand Hotel, for instance, starts as low as $765, based on double occupancy.

It includes deluxe accommodations in a sea-view room, Champagne and fresh fruit on arrival, a continental breakfast in bed or a full breakfast in the hotel's restaurant, one a la carte dinner, free access to the hotel's fitness center and pool, and complimentary sightseeing by minivan.

Other packages are available there and elsewhere.



2001 Monaco Government

Monaco

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Savoring the Litchfield Hills

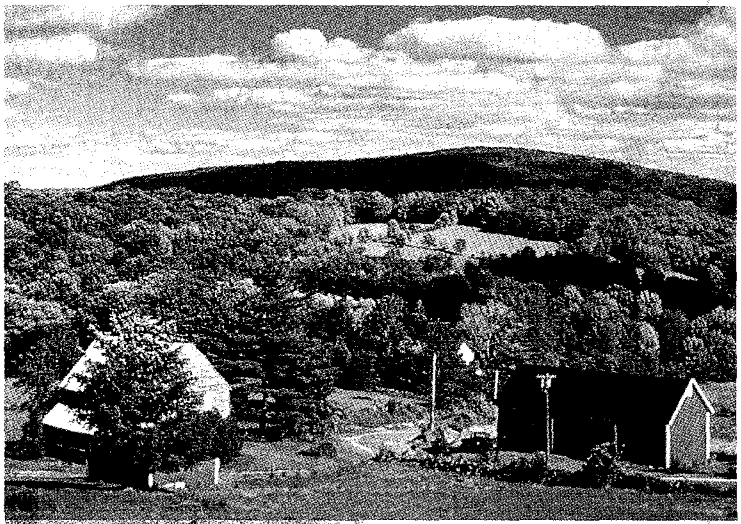
SPRING BRINGS THE SHEEN OF TENDER, NEWLY OPENED LEAVES TO THE LITCHFIELD HILLS OF NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT. WINTER'S CLOAK OF SNOW MELTS AWAY Brooks, lakes and streams rush with vigor and fresh trout. This 1,000-square-mile region is a magnet for people who appreciate natural beauty and history. Here, artists and craftsmen find inspiration in the work of those who preceded them: the unknown 19th-century carpenters who built the steepled, white church on Litchfield Green; the staunch, 18th-century Tapping Reeve house, site of the nation's first law school; the enchanting beauty of the Gertrude Jekyll garden surrounding the colonial Glebe House in Woodbury.

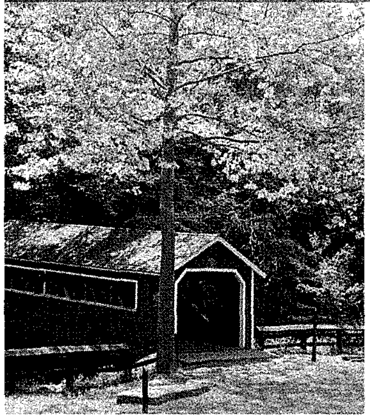
Dan Gugnoni, owner with his wife, Barbara, of the Troy Brook Visions Gallery in Litchfield, is one of the region's many artisans. In the Gugnoni's shop, a former smithy in the center of town, they sell Dan's Shaker-,colonial-, and Mission-inspired furniture along with baskets, pottery, textiles, and metalwork of other craftsmen. Dan uses traditional cabinetmaking techniques and hand-applied finishes designed to last for generations.

In West Cornwall, Todd Piker of Cornwall Bridge Pottery (named for one of two covered bridges in Litchfield Hills) makes pottery for everyday use, which he fires in a 35-foot-long woodburning kiln.

Glassblower and metalsmith Larry LiVolsi and his wife, Stephanie Kafka who makes handpainted furniture, have set up shop on a former farm in Lakeside. An outbuilding with handhewn beams has become their gallery, and the barn is now Larry's workroom. Where cows once grazed, visitors can now admire Larry's witty, spiky sculptures in metal and glass.

The Litchfield Hills are so rich in things to see and do that it's hard to choose. In addition, there are many excellent restaurants. Don't miss Carole Peck's Good News Café just down the street from the Woodbury Pewter Factory Outlet, where you can watch skilled craftsmen making pewter using centuries-old methods, or Dreama Erisoty's charming Yellow Victorian Restaurant near the Hitchcock chair factory (founded by Lambert Hitchcock in 1826) in Riverton.





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THE GARDENS OF PHILADELPHIA – AND THERE CERTAINLY ARE MANY OF THEM – ARE AT THEIR DAZZLING BEST BEGINNING IN LATE APRIL. Beneath umbrellas of pink and white dogwoods, neon-hued azaleas blanket the suburbs. Masses of rhododendrons adorn the city's parks. Wildflowers bloom at Bowman's Hill in New Hope and at the Brandywine Conservancy in Chadds Ford.

The Jenkins Arboretum in Devon proffers 1,000 cultivated varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas. The 31-acre Chanticleer garden in nearby Wayne features espaliered fruit trees, exotic wetlands, a water garden teeming with fish, a wildflower meadow, and a new, spectacular ruin garden.

Japanese House, Fairmount Park

Photo: Bob Krist for GPTMC

Within the city limits, the 92-acre Morris Arboretum in Chestnut Hill has enormous banks of orange azaleas and some of Philadelphia's oldest trees as well as grottos, fountains, and a formal rose garden.

By late May, roses bloom. There are wonderful collections at the Grange Estate in Havertown, the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College, Longwood Gardens, and the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library in Winterthur, Dealware.

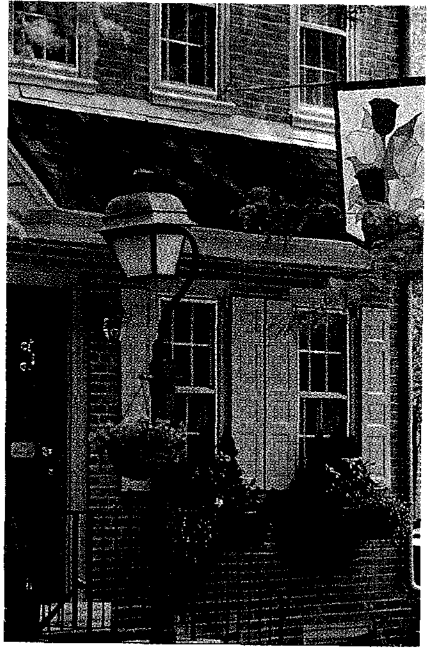
From May 1-29, Philadelphia celebrates this plenitude by throwing "The World's Largest Garden Party" with open houses, picnics, teas, tours, music, and storytelling.

Several area hotels are offering packages for the event. Among them is the 40-room Wayne Hotel, which is listed on the National Historic Register. Luxury accommodations for two, admission to the Chanticleer garden, a continental breakfast, a welcome bottle of wine on arrival, and complimentary parking cost $149 per night plus tax.

Other hotels have packages ranging from $129 to $139 a night, double occupancy.

Philadelphia is a two-hour drive from Manhattan via the New Jersey Turnpike, or take the train and rent a car at the 30th Street Station.

Society Hill



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THE 375-ROOM EMPIRE HOTEL IS DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM LINCOLN CENTER, WHICH SOME NEW YORKERS CONSIDER TO BE HALLOWED ground. You could spend a weekend at the Empire and not want to leave the neighborhood. The hotel's attentive staff will help you get tickets for shows at Lincoln Center or on nearby Broadway, as well as for anything else you would like to see.

This spring at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, the New York Philharmonic orchestra will be playing works by Wagner, Beethoven, Gershwin, and Bruckner, among others.

Across the plaza, the Metropolitan Opera will be winding up its season with operas by Strauss, Verdi, Janacek, and Berg before the American Ballet Theater arrives in May. ABT's spring repertory includes the world premiere of *The Pied Piper* ballet.

The New York City Opera, the New York City Ballet, the Juilliard School of Music, the Vivian Beaumont Theater and several movie theaters are also within a stone's throw of the Empire.

So is Central Park, which is a haven for migrating birds in springtime, and bursting with flowers.

The Empire has an elegant, European-style lobby and well-appointed guest rooms with state-of-the-art amenities.

For dining, the hotel's "award-winning" West 63rd Street Steakhouse is considered one of the best steakhouses in New York City. You may want to go there for dinner before a show and afterwards for a nightcap in its handsome, wood-paneled bar.

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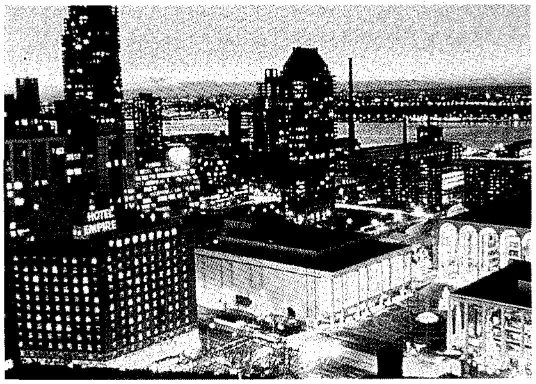

Isn't It Romantic?

MIRBEAU INN & SPA
851 W. Genesee St.
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1-315-685-5006
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DREAMING OF A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN FORGET ALL YOUR WORRIES, BE PAMPERED, AND LEARN SOME WAYS OF CARING FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS THAT YOU CAN TAKE HOME WITH YOU? DREAM NO MORE. THIS PLACE EXISTS. IT'S CALL MIRBEAU INN & SPA NEAR exquisitely beautiful Skaneateles Lake in upstate New York.

Situated on 12 acres among 100-foot-high spruce trees, the chateau-like inn and four guest cottages curve around gardens inspired by Claude Monet's country estate at Giverny. Mirbeau even has a green Japanese foot bridge like the one the French Impressionist artist so often painted.

There are 34 guest rooms, all with fireplaces and deep soaking tubs in oversized bathrooms. Mirbeau's luxury spa has a foot massage pool and mineral salt baths, plus nine treatment rooms, each with its own fireplace and sound system.

When you make a reservation at Mirbeau, you'll be called in advance by your personal valet who will ask you about your preferences in music, snacks and beverages, what newspapers you read, what sort of spa experience you seek and whether you have any dietary restrictions.

On arrival, you will go straight to your room (no time-consuming check-in) where your favorite music will be playing and the refrigerator will be stocked with food you enjoy.

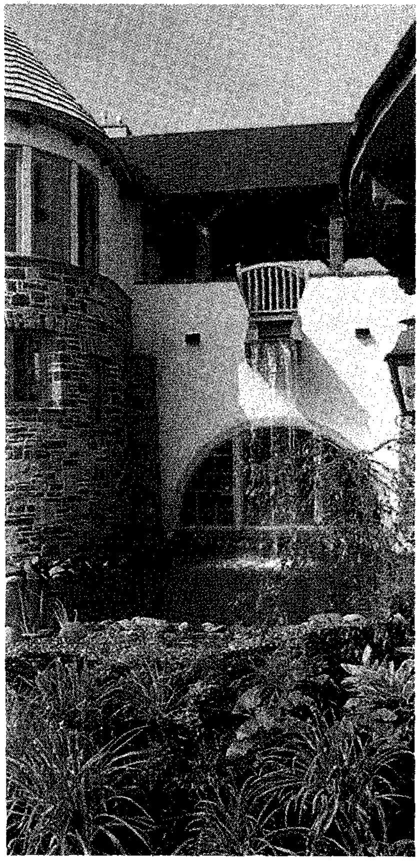
Within minutes, your valet will arrive with traditional tea services. Whenever you want or need anything during your stay, all you have to do is pick up the phone and your personal valet will respond like the genie in Aladdin's lamp.

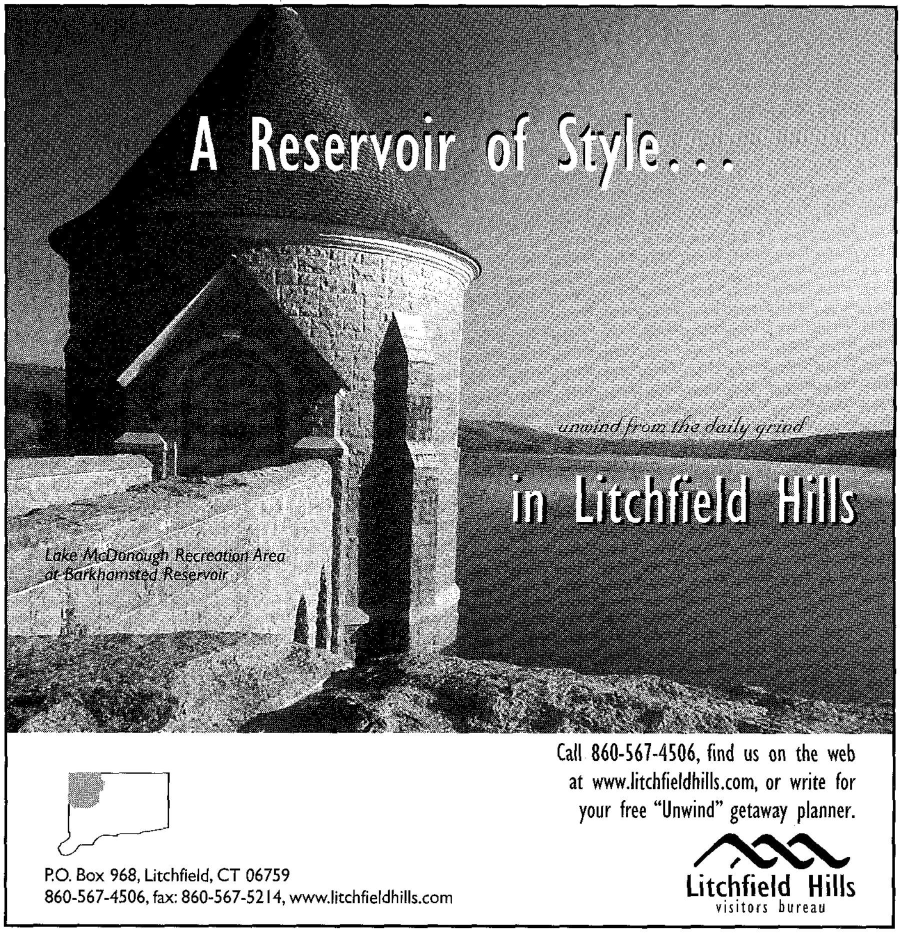
Skaneateles is a picturesque village with well-preserved 19th-century homes, gourmet restaurants, antique shops, boutiques, art galleries, and parks.

However, most guests prefer to eat at the inn, which has an award-winning dining room. Fresh, local ingredients are used wherever possible. The wine list includes selections from local wineries.

Spring is a delightful time to visit the Finger Lakes region. To make it even more inviting, Mirbeau is offering three special retreats called "Life Intermissions." The first, from April 29-May 2, is called "Healing, Meditation and Yoga." The second, from May 20-23 is "All About Body Image" and the third from June 24-27 is called "Intersecting Lives/ Intersecting Hearts."

Mirbeau's general manger, Toby Franklin, describes these as "lifestyle programs" where people can learn in a relaxing environment geared toward wellness. "We're trying to provide something unique and meaningful," he says.





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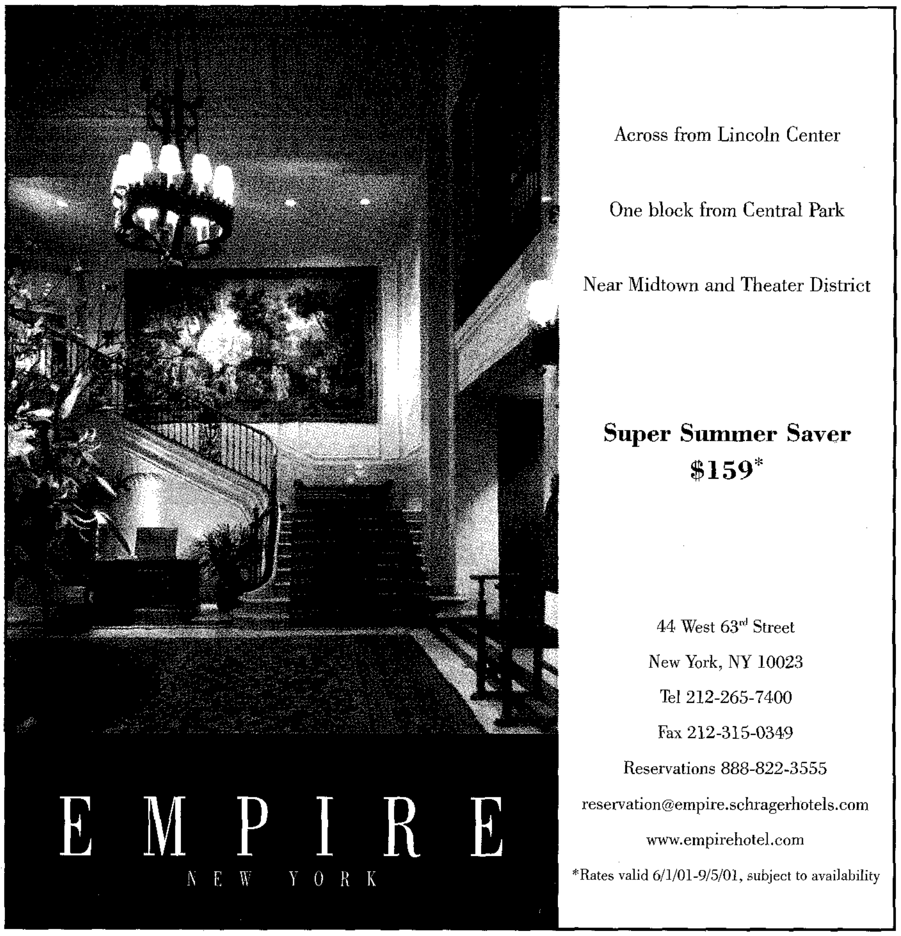

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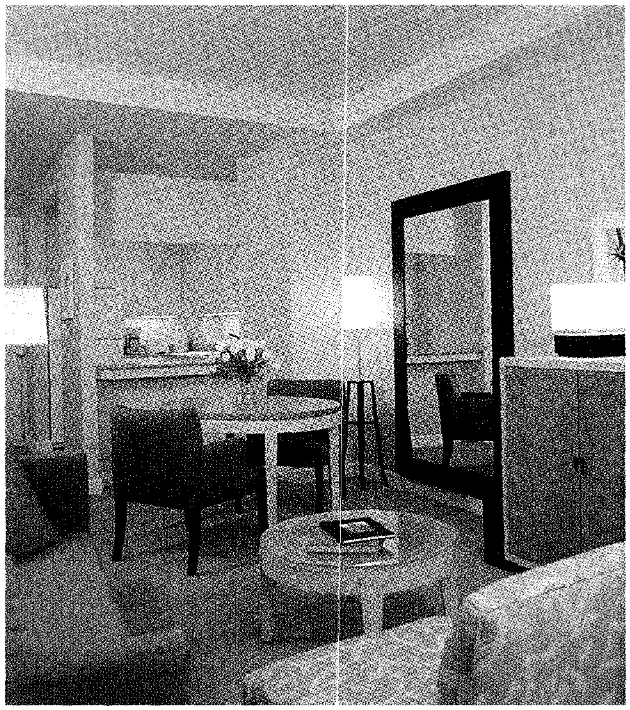


THE PHILLIPS CLUB
155 W. 66th St.
835-8800
www.phillipsclub.com

WHEN THEY GET TO NEW YORK CITY, SOME PEOPLE NEVER WANT TO LEAVE. THE Phillips Club, on Broadway just across from Lincoln Center, offers a residential-style alternative to traditional hotel rooms for everyone from the overnight guest to the person who seeks an elegant, sophisticated, full-service pied-à-terre. In between are those who move in for at least 30 days. The Phillips Club has room for them, too.

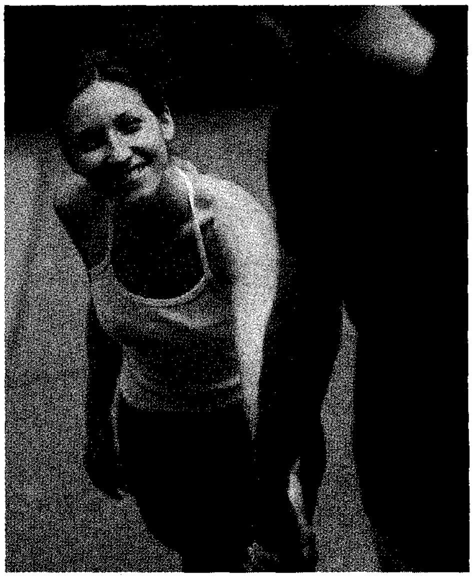
The Phillips Club's 188 suites range in size from junior suites to three-bedroom apartments. Approximately half are for short-term stays. All are fully equipped for luxurious living. In addition to a 24-hour concierge, maid service, and same-day laundry and valet service, The Phillips Club offers that coveted amenity of Manhattan life, a 24-hour parking garage just west of the facility.

It also offers guests and residents the use of the Reebok Sports Club/NY, a sports and fitness center just across the street. Known for its rock-climbing wall and its rooftop inline skating area, the Reebok is also equipped with a running track, swimming pool, basketball and volleyball courts, and the latest weight-training equipment.

The Phillips Club's extended-stay facilities opened in 1996 and the boutique hotel in September 1999. With more and more people coming back to the city or here on short-term assignments, or perhaps not wishing to live in a construction zone when they renovate their own apartments, the Club was much-needed.

Overnight guests, long-term residents and owners all have handsome kitchens and access to restaurant delivery plus one of Manhattan's finest gourmet food stores right in the building. Balducci's, a Greenwich Village landmark, has opened a branch in The Phillips Club.

If you're planning a spring getaway in Manhattan, you could not do better than this location. All the cultural attractions of Lincoln Center would be on your doorstep, and a stroll in Central Park is just two blocks in the opposite direction.



A Home Away From Home

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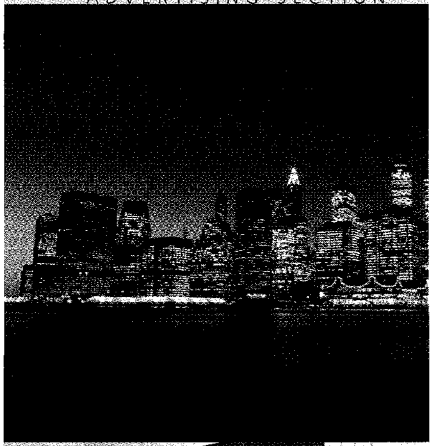
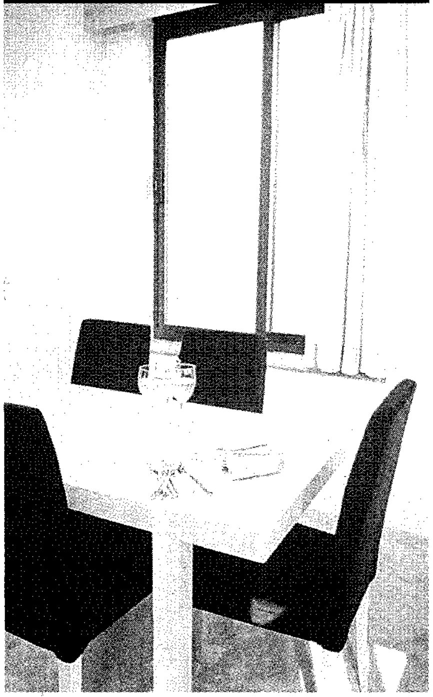
THE MARMARA-MANHATTAN OFFERS 32 STORIES OF SUN-FILLED APARTMENTS, WHERE GUESTS OVERLOOK THE CITY'S BUSTLE AND DAZZLE BUT CAN RETREAT INTO THE COMFORT OF THEIR OWN HOME AWAY FROM HOME.A SANCTUARY FOR PEOPLE WANT TO remain in Manhattan for 30 days or more, the hotel's accommodations range in size from studios to three-bedroom suites. Many have balconies and stunning views. The apartments cost far less than equivalent space in the city's luxury hotels, which often don't have room for long-term guests.

Some apartments are furnished in a sleek, contemporary style, while others are more traditional. A 24-hour concierge on the premises helps guests make any arrangements they need.





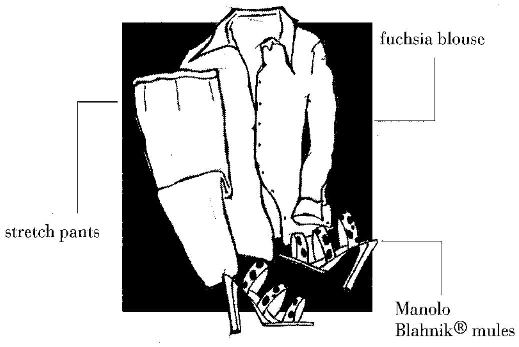
Everything is provided, including kitchen equipment, linens, and housekeeping services. Most guests just arrive with their suitcases, although one tenant moved in a baby grand piano.

The Marmara-Manhattan is located in Yorkville, a pleasant residential neighborhood on Manhattan's Upper East Side with easy access to other parts of New York City.

Guests receive complimentary passes to a nearby health club and pool. Manhattan's Museum Mile on Fifth Avenue is also within easy walking distance.

If guests find they need to extend their stay, the hotel will try to accommodate them. Once having settled into their home away from home, they may be tempted not to leave.

What to wear with Sauteed Turbotine and Crispy Salad.



At Mark's, we're more concerned about what you're eating than what you're wearing. So experience the clubby atmosphere and innovative cuisine that *Zagat* calls "NYC's best kept secret..." But please, wear what you like.

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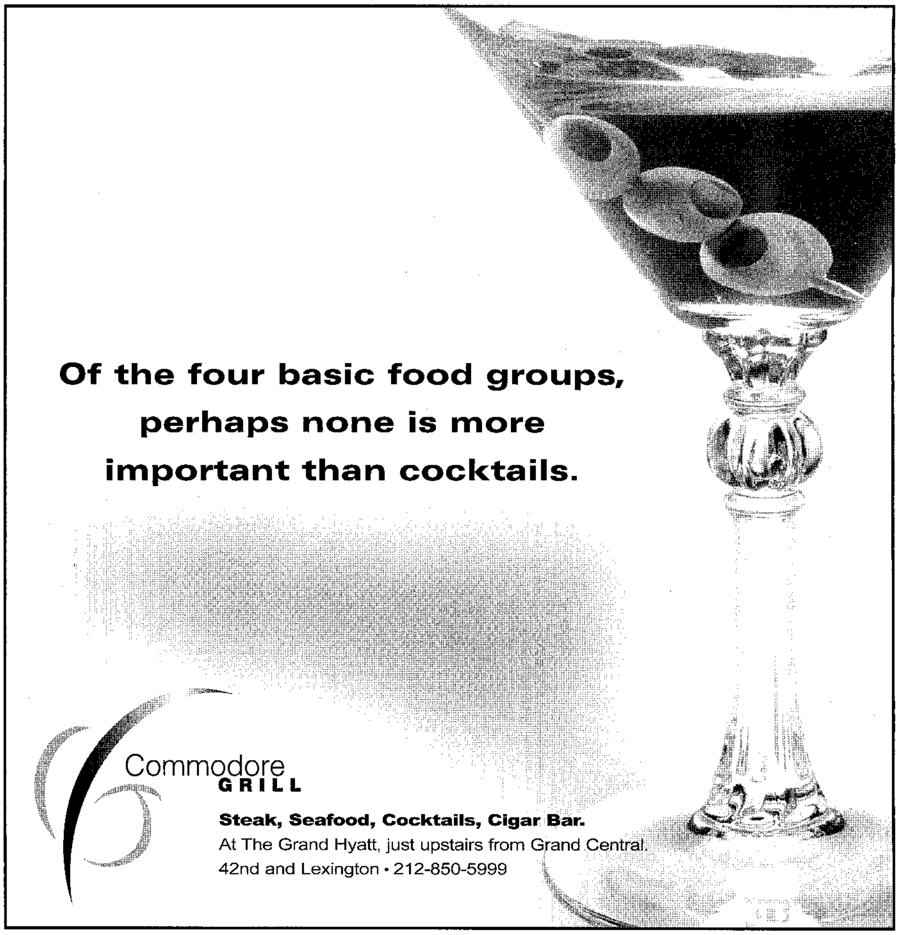

Of the four basic food groups, perhaps none is more important than cocktails.

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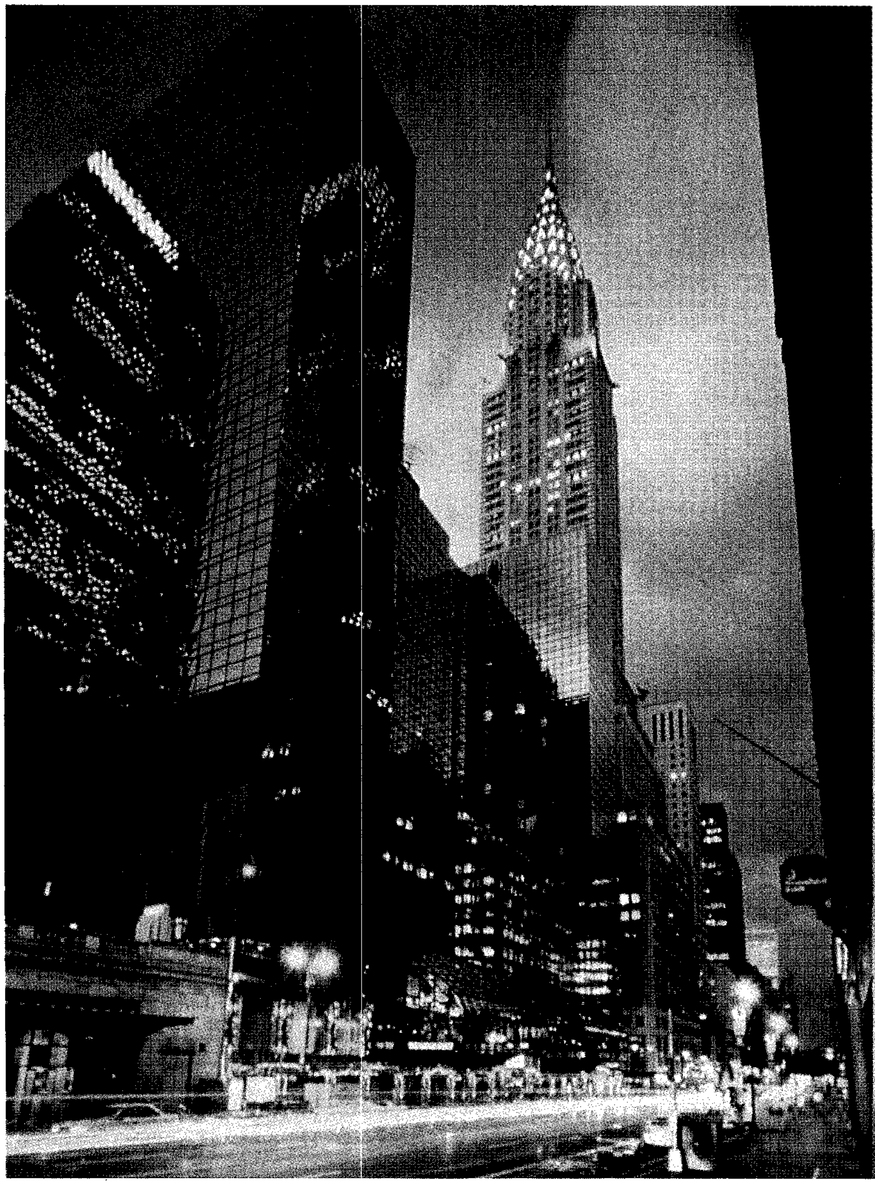
If your idea of the ideal spring getaway is equivalent to a jolt of black coffee, this is the place for you. You will have every amenity at your fingertips and the city at your feet.

When you leave your room in the morning (for breakfast, perhaps, in the two-story Crystal Fountain restaurant), you'll emerge directly into the bustle of New York City. On your left will be the Chrysler Building, that Art Deco masterpiece that never ceases to amaze, and on your right, Grand Central Terminal, recently refurbished at a cost of $197 million.

Though you could head straight for the shops of Fifth Avenue or the main building of The New York Public Library guarded by its famous lions – both just two blocks away – Grand Central has become a joy, and not just for the thousands of commuters who throng its cavernous main concourse at rush hour.

Here you will find a microcosm of the city – fascinating shops, ethnic food, great architecture, and unparalleled opportunities for people-watching. Tours are offered daily or you can look around on your own.



Don't miss the international food court on Grand Central's lower concourse, the gourmet food market on the Lexington Avenue flank of the building, or the Campbell Apartment in the southwest corner, once home to a turn-of-the-century financier who patterned it after a 13th-century Florentine palace.

After a hard day of sightseeing and shopping, you will return happily to your luxurious quarters at Grand Hyatt, perhaps stopping in the hotel's Commodore Grill (open until 1 a.m.) for a nightcap before tumbling into bed.

When you rise, another day of exploration and indulgence await you.

Get Packing

SOME TIPS TO MAKE PACKING FOR YOUR SPRING GETAWAY A TRULY RESTFUL (READ: LOW-STRESS) VACATION. DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THEM:

CARRY-ON

Opt for a a carry-on (with wheels) like the ones used by the flight attendants.You won't worry about losing a bag and don't have to wait for the luggage to be unloaded. Be sure your carryon is within 9 x 14 x 22 inches.

ID

Label luggage with your business card or an information label that lists all of your pertinent (local) phone numbers and addresses. Include e-mail, if applicable.

EAR PLUGS

Tune out your cabin's bawling children, excessive announcements, and other noisy interruptions.

HANGERS

For some reason, even the most posh hotels never seem to have enough hangers. Stash a few extra plastic hangers so you can keep your garments in tiptop shape.

SLEEPWEAR

There's nothing more annoying than arriving at your destination only to find that you forgot your p.j.'s. If you're short on room, an old T-shirt will suffice.

RAINCOAT

We don't want to rain on your parade, but sudden showers do tend to put a damper on plans. A lightweight raincoat with hood takes up very little packing space.

DISPOSABLE CAMERA

Lugging around all that expensive photo equipment can become a nuisance. Better off with an inexpensive disposable camera to snap photos on the fly.

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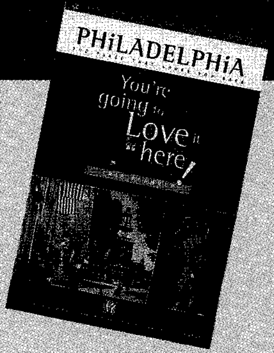

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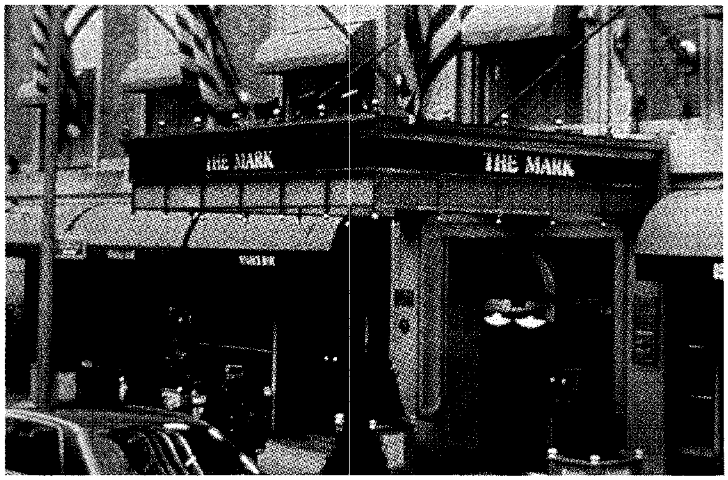
"The connoisseurship of tea goes back more than 2,500 years in China," he explains. Mr. Lo, who hails from Hong Kong where he was formerly with The Peninsula hotel, has spent many years studying and savoring this subtle brew.

"There are six basic kinds of Chinese tea," he says, "each requiring different water temperatures and steeping times to bring out their finest qualities."

He fills a small cup with delicate green Dragon's Well tea and then immediately empties it, but the fresh smell of grass still lingers within and is even more pronounced when Mr. Lo serves the first of three steepings to his guests.

Then he demonstrates the properties of lychee tea and of a dark green tea in the oolong family. A bamboo steamer filled with dim sum appears followed by an English tiered tea tray with exquisite little sandwiches, scones and pastries.



Two hours drift by unnoticed. Guests who had been strangers to each other when they sat down exchange names. Mr. Lo smiles affably.

Afterwards, a misty spring day on Madison Avenue seems particularly fragrant, the shops filled with antiques, jewelry and high-fashion clothing, especially intriguing. Passers-by seem elegant and at ease with the world. Suddenly, it becomes clear that Mr. Lo's tea tasting has been a form of meditation, enhancing spirit and senses.

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Spring at the Stanhope

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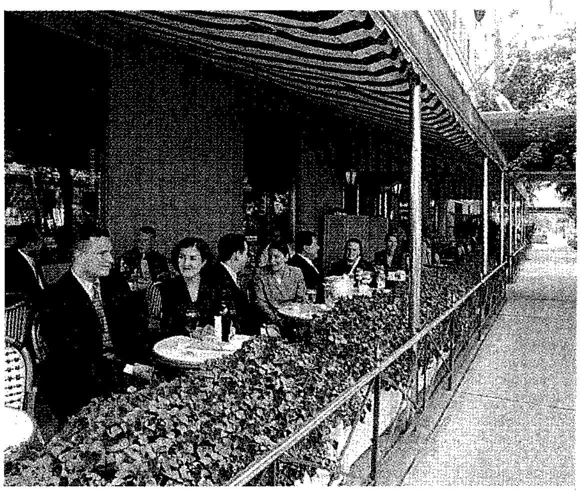
Over the years, many people have been drawn to The Stanhope Park Hyatt New York because of its understated elegance. The hotel was patterned after luxurious European manor houses, with gold leaf moldings and antique tapestries in its intimate public rooms.

The great saxophonist Charlie Parker loved the hotel. So did Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, who lived near the Stanhope. She often came there for tea.

This spring, The Met will honor the former First Lady with an exhibit in The Costume Institute titled "Jacqueline Kennedy: The



White House Years," running from May 1 through July 29.

Stanhope guests will be able to stroll across the street to see 80 costumes and accessories from her formal White House wardrobe as well as pieces that she wore during her husband's 1960 presidential campaign.

The hotel is offering a Museum Package consisting of a deluxe guest room and two tickets to either the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum or The Met for $285 a night.

Other fascinating museums in the hotel's tony Upper East Side neighborhood include the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, The Frick Collection and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Some of Jackie O's friends and acquaintances still sip tea at The Stanhope Library where they can now choose a Russian or Chinese tea in addition to the traditional English service.

They also enjoy the hotel's Melrose Restaurant and the outdoor Terrace Cafe which recently opened for the season. Sheltered under the cafe's handsome blue-and-gold awning, they come here for lunch or dinner, and perhaps even for breakfast on weekends, and watch the passing parade.

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NEW YORK

Fairmont
HOTELS & RESORTS

A Weekly Guide to Culture and Upcoming Events

Edited by Christopher Bonanos

Movies

Freddy Got Fingered

Opens April 20

Tom Green, auteur? The gonadally challenged MTV star's first directing job—about a guy who has to move back into his parents' trailer home—does not star Drew Barrymore, his fiancée. But it is rated R, the Academy helpfully explains, for "crude sexual and bizarre humor." O Farrelly brothers, come back: All is forgiven. (See page 169.)

Art

Do-Ho Suh: Some/One

At the Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris

A freakily fascinating installation at the Whitney's 42nd Street branch: Korean-born artist Do-Ho Suh's huge, sweeping form assembled out of thousands of dog tags. Chain mail? Aluminum siding? Dragon scales? Bring your own reading. (See listing, page 182.)

Theater

Crimes of the Heart

At Second Stage Theatre

Beth Henley's southern-gothic comedy—back for the first time since its 1981 debut—won both the New York Drama Critics Circle award and the Pulitzer (her screenplay even got an Oscar nomination). This production stars Enid Graham, Julia Murney, and Mary Catherine Garrison (pictured). (See listing, page 176.)

Books

Mutations

By Rem Koolhaas et al.; ACTAR; $45

Best of the Week

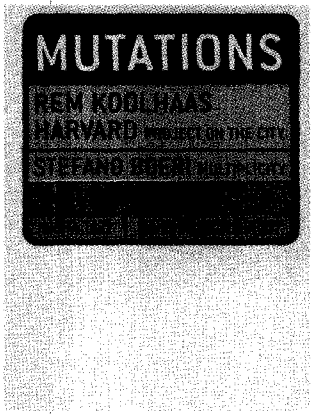
The strange mental cityscape of Rem Koolhaas—now in convenient book form! *Mutations* is more like a trip through his files (and those of his many co-authors): Theories of Tokyo-as-convenience-store, weird Tibor Kalman–ish photo essays about Third World cities, and sentences like " 'Contour maps' no longer describe geological features but altitudes of money." It's 720 pages of tough urban hiking, but you'll come out seeing the city like a pro.

In Concert

Morton Subotnick

At the Kitchen

Now that electronic music is not only back but settled in as a sturdy piece of the mainstream, beeps-and-bloops pioneers from the sixties are getting their due. Hence the splashy premiere of Morton Subotnick's new music-and-video work, *Gestures: It Begins With Color* and the New York premiere of his *Repent.* Don't bring Hilton Kramer. (See listing, page 205.)



Nightlife

Beres Hammond

At the Hammerstein Ballroom

He may live in New York now, but Beres Hammond's lilt and languor say *Jamaica* all the way. On the heels of his new album, *Music Is Life,* he plays his adopted hometown on April 19. (See page 195.)

Restaurants

Taste of the Lower East Side

April 19

The Lower East Side's culinary boom is, so far, peacefully co-existing with the neighborhood's old-school businesses. Consider who's part of this Grand Street Settlement benefit: 71 Clinton Fresh Food, Russ & Daughters, Leshko's, Radio Perfecto, and Two Boots Pizzeria. (Tickets are $75–$300; at the Angel Orensanz Center, 172 Norfolk Street; call 212-674-1740, ext. 208, to reserve.)

Photographs: clockwise from bottom right, Joan Marcus; Chris Helcermanas-Benge; courtesy of VP Records

A Bridget Too Far

Helen Fielding's 1996 best-seller about singletons and their suitors had charm to spare—so why does the film version have so much trouble coming up with any?

WHO WOULD HAVE BElieved years ago when the *fatwa* was raging that some day we would be seeing a movie with the credit line "Salman Rushdie as Himself"? Rushdie shows up as Rushdie in a book-party scene in the new movie **Bridget Jones's Diary**, starring Renée Zellweger, and that should not be too surprising, since he's on record as having loved the 1996 Helen Fielding novel on which the film is based. ("A brilliant comic creation. Even men will laugh," he blurbs on the book jacket.) I doubt that he, or the novel's many other adherents, will find the movie brilliant. It's even less substantial than the book—if that's possible. The filmmakers spend so much time milking gags they should have called it *Bridget Jones's Dairy.*

Bridget Jones (Renée Zellweger) and her new Mr. Darcy (Colin Firth).

Fielding's novel, consisting of diary entries covering practically a full year beginning with New Year's Day, is a rat-a-tat spree about a 32-year-old romanceless London malcontent who eventually has to choose between two men, her devastatingly sexy and caddish publishing-house boss, Daniel Cleaver, played in the movie by Hugh Grant, and an eminently eligible but priggish barrister, Mark Darcy, played by Colin Firth. It's a spoofy, Jane Austen–ish setup; even Bridget gets the irony of the "Darcy" surname. (Another in-joke: Firth played Mr. Darcy in the BBC's *Pride and Prejudice.*) The eminently skimmable book seems to evaporate, page by page, as you read it, and yet it has an endearing clownishness; Bridget is so flummoxed by her femaleness that she comes across as a kind of Notting Hill version of Lucille Ball. The smash success of the novel, not only with women who "saw themselves" in Bridget, but with men, too, may have been in part a reaction to the sobby, rabid humorlessness of much self-consciously feminist literature. Bridget pays lip service to sisterhood but mostly she's a mess of triumphantly unevolved longings and peccadilloes. She's a new-old type: the post-feminist pre-feminist.

Bridget Jones's Diary
Directed by Sharon Maguire; starring Renée Zellweger, Hugh Grant, and Colin Firth.

The Circle
Directed by Jafar Panahi. See Movies listings for details.

The book's comedy needed an especially light and steadying touch to succeed in the movies. Instead, the film, which was directed by Sharon Maguire, a documentarian making her dramatic-feature debut, seems to have been made with an eye to the crowd that flocked to *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Notting Hill.* Richard Curtis, who along with Fielding and Andrew Davies co-wrote the script, also wrote those two films, and *Bridget Jones's Diary* shares with them a curdled goofiness. The ultimate effect is a bit condescending, as if smart people were dumbing down their gifts in order to please us. Maybe it's just that British comedies, when they're "dumb," are often at their sharpest, à la Monty Python, while in this film the dumb stuff is just, well, *dumb.* Jokes that worked well enough on the page, such as Bridget's fear that she will end up dead in her apartment being nibbled by Alsatians, don't translate at all when transferred to the big screen. The film tries to position itself as a comic anthem for unshackled single-womanhood, but it's aimed at the bland middle. Even the two male candidates are bland: Hugh Grant as a fidgety cad isn't much more exciting than his usual stuttery good guy, and Colin Firth creaks with humorless rectitude. Jane Austen would have tossed these two overboard.

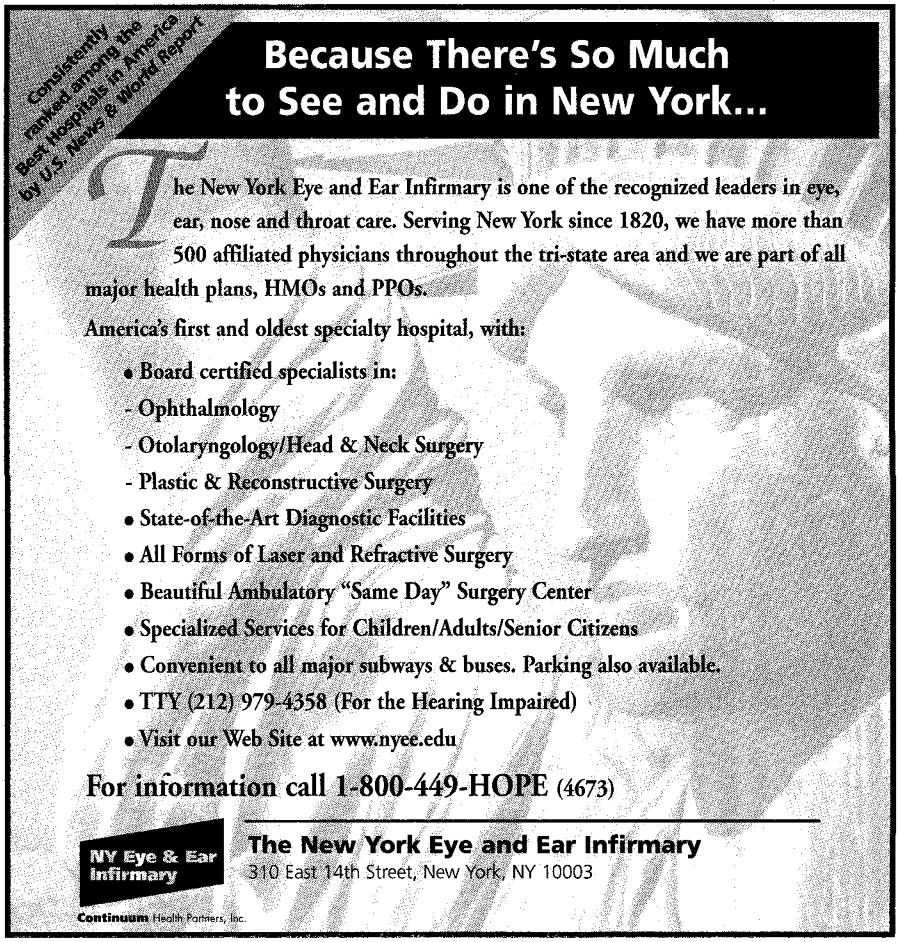
The dullness extends to the ways in which Bridget herself is portrayed. Despite the outward impression that Bridget is an "original" even by British standards of eccentricity, she remains a most conventional type: a combination mantrap and snuggle bunny. Renée Zellweger reportedly put on about twenty pounds for the role, and you wonder why she had to: It's enough that Bridget *thinks* she's overweight. The filmmakers

Photograph by Alex Bailey.

seem oblivious to Zellweger's innate charms, to the smudgy, zonked quality that makes it seem as if she always just woke up from a blissful dream that wasn't quite concluded.

In most movies of this type, the ugly-duckling girl isn't really ugly at all, except to herself; the fun is in seeing her realize what we saw in her all along. But in *Bridget Jones's Diary*—which begins its narrative as an onscreen diary and then blithely drops the ploy—Zellweger is rarely allowed to show us the natural-born princess inside the ditzy, rumpled worrier. What little she *does* get to show us makes the film tolerable. Zellweger has a gift for appearing simultaneously easygoing and chaotic, and this quality helps tone down some of the brassier aspects of Bridget. She even does well by her British accent, just one more nutty stunt that she pulls off against all odds. As endearingly blotto as Zellweger comes across, she gets the job done. That's her comic specialty. Bridget wants to be loved for being just the way she is, and the film is fortunate in having an actress audiences warm to because they perceive in her an essential sweetness. That sweetness seems unforced, and it's about the only thing in this movie that is.

THE WOMEN IN THE IRANIAN MOVIE **The Circle** are all fugitives. Two of them, on temporary leave from prison, attempt to flee; a friend of theirs who has escaped prison tries unsuccessfully to get an abortion; another woman is shown abandoning her child on the streets of Tehran; and yet another is picked up for prostitution. The stories of these disparate lives dovetail into one another, and all are given equal weight. Because of government-censorship restrictions, quite a few Iranian movies have centered on childhood rather than adult themes. In *The Circle,* which is banned in Iran, the enforced society of women is, in effect, a community of adults treated as children. (Women in Tehran are not even allowed to stay outside on their own.) The film's director, Jafar Panahi, gives each of the stories a resonance, even though they are little more than linked vignettes. The ordeals these women endure are made to seem like microcosms of suffering. Panahi holds his camera on the women's faces for extended periods, and their misery and resolution come through with the force of accusation. No wonder the film has been banned. ■



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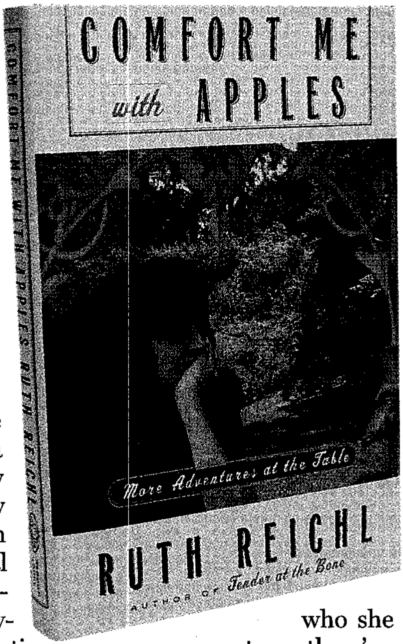
Pen Palates

The current doyenne of breathless food journalism, Ruth Reichl, weighs in on sex and taste; Susan Loomis tests whether we can choke down another Mayle manqué.

IT'S ONLY APPROPRIATE THAT THE title of Ruth Reichl's latest book comes from that horniest of biblical texts, the Song of Songs, because **Comfort Me With Apples** is as much about sex and love as it is about food. This is just as well: As Reichl herself observes with characteristic orneriness—she was the famously controversial restaurant critic for the *Times* and is currently the editor-in-chief of *Gourmet*—"Food all by itself is really boring to read about." I'm no foodie, but even if you're one of those people who fusses over the size of the sesame seeds on your bread sticks, you have to admit that she has a point: Like sex, taste is so intensely subjective, so personal, that only really good writing can make it interesting to mere bystanders. As it happens, Reichl's interweaving of cuisine and autobiography (her second after the bestseller *Tender at the Bone*) is being published the same week as cookbook author Susan Herrmann Loomis's memoir of how she came to live in a small Normandy town. Although they have a great deal in common (and real cooks won't fail to notice that the eponymous fruit of Reichl's title is the key ingredient in the tart in Loomis's), these two prose narratives by prominent gourmands represent opposite extremes of the spectrum in food writing.


COMFORT ME with APPLES
More Adventures at the Table
RUTH REICHL
AUTHOR OF Tender at the Bone
COMFORT ME WITH APPLES RUTH REICHL

Both authors have good stories to tell. (And both use the same narrative tactic, intertwining the stories of their evolution as lovers of food with recipes for meals described in the text.) The New York–bred Reichl started out in the late seventies as a Berkeley resident living, inevitably, in a communal apartment with a bunch of vegetarians who considered fine restaurants to be "decadent" and "bourgeois." "Let me get this straight," a bushy-bearded roommate says when she gets her first real job. "You're going to spend your life telling spoiled, rich people where to eat too much obscene food?"

Luckily for us all, that's precisely what she did, traveling to Paris and China and Thailand and Spain in order to educate her palate, befriending such restaurant greats as Alice Waters and Wolfgang Puck back in the early eighties, when American food was undergoing revolutionary changes, and yet never losing her commune-bred suspiciousness of restaurant-world pretensions that were often more *haute* than the cuisine. (When she first started at the *Times*, she memorably ran a double review of Le Cirque that reflected on the wildly divergent treatment she received before and after the management realized who she was.) Despite her breezy tone, there's an underlying tartness that gives Reichl's narrative a satisfying complexity. Subtly but effectively, she contrasts the story of the education of her senses with that of the gradual disintegration of her marriage to her first husband, an artist named Doug. (Not to worry: Eventually she finds true love and manages to get pregnant in her forties.)

Comfort Me With Apples
By Ruth Reichl
306 pages; Random House; $24.95.

On Rue Tatin
By Susan Herrmann Loomis
306 pages; Broadway Books; $24.

Loomis, too, tells the story of a young naïf who conquers a rarefied world. **On Rue Tatin** also begins around 1980, with the twentysomething Loomis arriving in Paris to serve for a year as a *stagiaire*, an apprentice at a cooking school for English-speaking students. The rest of the book goes on to describe the author's good-humored attempts to install herself, her artist husband, and their small son in a remote French village; a process that, as we have all learned by now from Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence* and its numerous imitations (many of them by Mayle himself), requires subtle insights into the convoluted psychology of her Gallic neighbors, to say nothing of stove construction, painting and plastering, and the finer points of not always endearingly bizarre French property laws. (The mean priest who lives next door has the legal right to traipse through the Loomises' yard whenever he likes.) By the end, of course—more shades of Mayle here—the author and her family are adored by nearly everyone in Louviers. And here, too, there's a luscious narrative dessert in the form of a much-hoped-for pregnancy after the author has turned 40.

But parallel though these two cholesterol-saturated lives may be, Reichl's and Loomis's books couldn't be more different. "I have this idea that I could write reviews that were like short stories," Reichl writes at the beginning of her book, and the 300 swiftly moving pages that follow amply testify to a real writerly gift. (You have no trouble believing that her first ambition was to write novels.) The author knows how to convey mood and setting with efficient, sometimes really poetic strokes: At one point, when she abjectly follows a lover to Paris, she arrives at the Gare du Nord, where "the black train hunched

Photograph by Liz Steger.

its back like a malevolent cat and hissed angrily at me." That's good, but even better are the descriptions of food. A truffle "tasted the way a forest smells in autumn when the leaves are turning colors and someone, far off, is burning them." Turning her attention to less exalted meals (the true test of a food writer, perhaps), she describes eating a flawless plate of scrambled eggs as being "like biting off a piece of the sun."

Loomis, on the other hand, merely bites off more than she can chew. There's a winning earnestness to her book—she clearly loves her husband and child and the town she's chosen to live in—but her prose is clunky and artless. This best-selling author of numerous cookbooks may live in France and rave about the superiority of French fruits and vegetables and meats to their American counterparts (that old chestnut), but the descriptions of food and foodstuffs, ironically, remind you of nothing so much as the produce she disdains: big, but oddly flavorless. She has this to say about a sorbet: "The red currant was vivid, like a giant red currant."

And unlike Reichl's delicately constructed narrative, Loomis's lurches from incident to incident—looking for a stove, swimming in a lake, and shopping at the local mini-market—without any sense of an overriding structure or point, save that they happened and they justify the (very appetizing-looking) recipes at the back of each chapter. Unfortunately, there's much more than a dash of slovenly writing here: confusing chronological jumps, information given twice, and a sufficient number of other glitches to make me wonder whether the editors at Broadway Books had been engaging in some memorable culinary adventures of their own—primarily involving olives at the bottom of martini glasses.

That's too bad for Loomis: All great cooking starts with flawless technique, and I couldn't help thinking that with a bit more slicing and dicing, her book could have been a lot better. As it stands, it's *Comfort Me With Apples* that reminds you of a really great meal, well balanced and well seasoned, leaving you satisfied and yet somehow wanting more. *On Rue Tatin,* a lumpy, rather flavorless stew in which clichés float like stale croutons, will leave you craving only Maalox. ■

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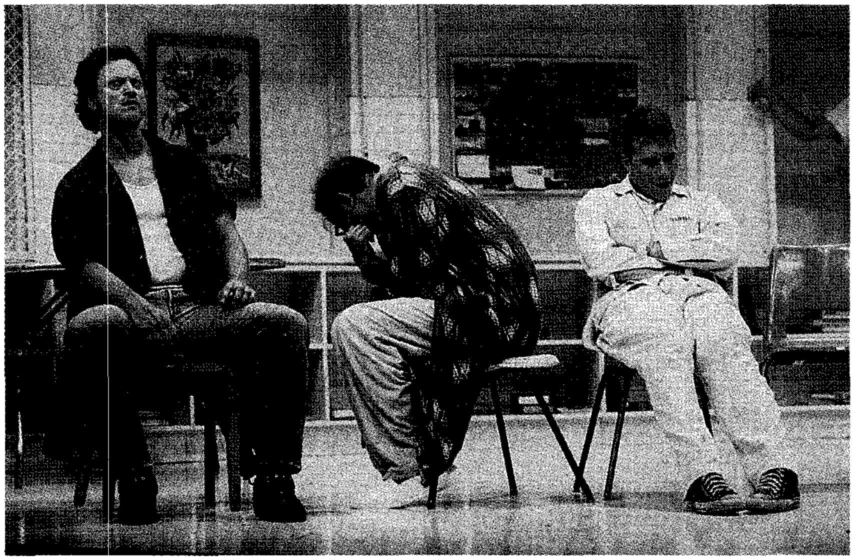
Hornet's *Nest*

Despite the buzz generated by the Steppenwolf's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,* the play no longer has much sting; *Dali* starts dully but ends as a dilly.

IT IS HARD TO ASSESS HOW MUCH of it is overexposure, but watching this particular nest overflown for the fourth time, I felt rather like the Chinese under U.S. aerial surveillance. I speak of the Steppenwolf Theatre's **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**. Randle P. McMurphy, Ken Kesey's Huck Finn–in-the–booby-hatch hero, coming at us via Dale Wasserman's stage adaptation, is a product all too mired in its period.



Flying high: Gary Sinise, Rick Snyder, and Eric Johner in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.*

That period, leading up to the events of 1968, spawned the genre of the real or fake madman rebelling against a madhouse world in which the allegedly sane are crazier than the so-called crazies; e.g., *Cuckoo's Nest, King of Hearts,* and, substituting the Army for the asylum, *Catch-22.* At root the child's rebellion against Mother, Kesey's one successful 1962 fiction was in essence a novelized graffito.

Wasserman's 1963 Broadway version, starring Kirk Douglas as a superb McMurphy, flopped. The San Francisco–engendered Off Broadway version of 1971, with its anti-Vietnam subtext, clicked with William Devane morphing into McMurphy. But it was Milos Forman's 1975 movie that immortalized this *faux*-bananas Bunyan in the person of Jack Nicholson, who cannily blended menace with mischief. The enemy is Nurse Ratched, the eternal emasculating feminine, against whom the boy hero wages a war of liberation.

Gary Sinise, the incumbent McMurphy, drawl and swagger well in place, has more of a smirk than a laugh, more bonhomie than subversion, and Sinise's bug-eyed baby face is less of an asset in this role than in others. As Nurse Ratched, Amy Morton, a tall, thin actress, gives an understated, one-dimensional performance that goes only so far—if that.

The supporting roles are handled well enough but without the bravura that William Daniels, Gene Wilder, and Brad Dourif displayed in former *Nests*. As representatives of Kesey's other trite *topos,* the whore with the heart of gold, Mariann Mayberry and Sarah Charipar do nicely; the only miscalculated performance is that of K. Todd Freeman, as an utterly wimpy Dr. Spivey. For the mighty Chief Bromden, it is good to have Tim Sampson, son of the movie-version Indian, proving that son-to-father successions work better outside politics.

As director, Terry Kinney is less apt than as actor, but it may be that Robert Brill's imposing but inflexible set is partly to blame. Kevin Rigdon's lighting for Bromden's interior monologues may be a trifle showy but provides much-needed variety. This *Cuckoo's Nest* is chiefly recommendable to those coming to it absolutely fresh, if any such exist.

MY PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS WITH THE PLAYwright José Rivera, *Marisol* and *Cloud Tectonics,* were less than happy, and the first twenty-or-so minutes of **References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot** tended to bear out my doubts. The very title, for one thing, elicited a no-way-José reaction; for another, the cavortings of a violin-playing Moon, and the sexual games of a fat Cat and lean Coyote inspired meager enthusiasm.

We were in the yard of a near-hovel in the California desert by an Army town, where Gabriela was awaiting the return from the Gulf War of her soldier husband, Benito. But once the seemingly fragile but tough and gun-toting Gabi—after dancing with the concupiscent Moon, intimidating the Coyote, and sparring with the Cat—took over with her Army wife's frustrations and laments, and especially after the horny Benito returned to claim his marital rights with a certain lack of tact, things began to look up and up.

The writing fluctuates between faintly surreal poetry and wryly pointed prose, cocky fantasy and bittersweet earthiness. Rivera manages the latter adroitly, but even the former is not without its moments. As the lunar and

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
At the Royale Theater.

References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot
At the Public Theater.
See Theater listings for details.

Photograph by Tristam Kenton.

animal shenanigans yield to human sexual and spiritual needs at loggerheads with material and military requirements, the play turns into a genuine comedy-drama that rises above the specific into the ecumenical.

Particularly praiseworthy is the evenhandedness with which Rivera articulates the husband's and the wife's dilemmas, and his ability to anchor Benito and Gabriela in both their Hispanic roots and their ultimate universality. Their language is credibly down-to-earth, but with flights of a more literary wit and lyricism that, after the initial stages, avoid striking false notes.

Too bad that the principals in this production, otherwise skillfully directed by Jo Bonney, are unevenly matched. As Benito, John Ortiz is memorable, good from his unflattering razor Army haircut to his all-flattening Army boots. As a man who loves his country except for the people in it, and who does not demur at ordering the destruction of an entire village of unsubmitting "towelheads," Ortiz expertly balances strategic brutality with finer feelings. What he likes about the Army is the lifelong pension after the twenty-year stint, on which, now in his eleventh year, he keeps his inner gaze fixed.

He cannot understand why Gabi can't wait out nine more years, after which their marriage will cease to be a continual coitus interruptus. She, however, is fed up to the point of receiving her returning mate with an empty fridge and unspread thighs. She assumes the upper hand—or foot, symbolized by her tromping around in Benito's relievedly shed boots—and gives hubby an ultimatum: Either the uniform or the wife must go. But in these lively verbal and sexual jockeyings, Rosie Perez does not hold her own. She comes across as a Shirley Temple with knockers, her line delivery consistently defying natural rhythms and pauses, her insubstantial voice fading as if evaporating from the desert sun. She is undeniably cute, but what suffices in the movies falls short on the stage. Her specialty appears to be petulance, from which she seldom ventures forth.

Among the supporting players, the most interesting is Carlo Alban, as a 14-year-old neighbor with a lech for Gabriela, whom he pursues with boyish maladroitness. The actor does this with a charm rather lacking in Cat, Coyote, and Moon. The Dalí reference, completely adventitious, will leave you cold, but most of the play will not. ■

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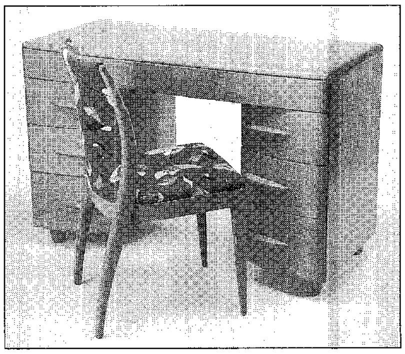

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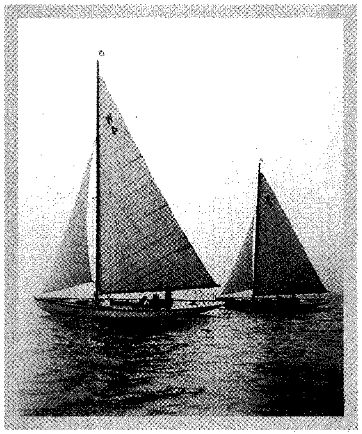


Sapphire *by Beken of Cowes*

Rocky Mountain High

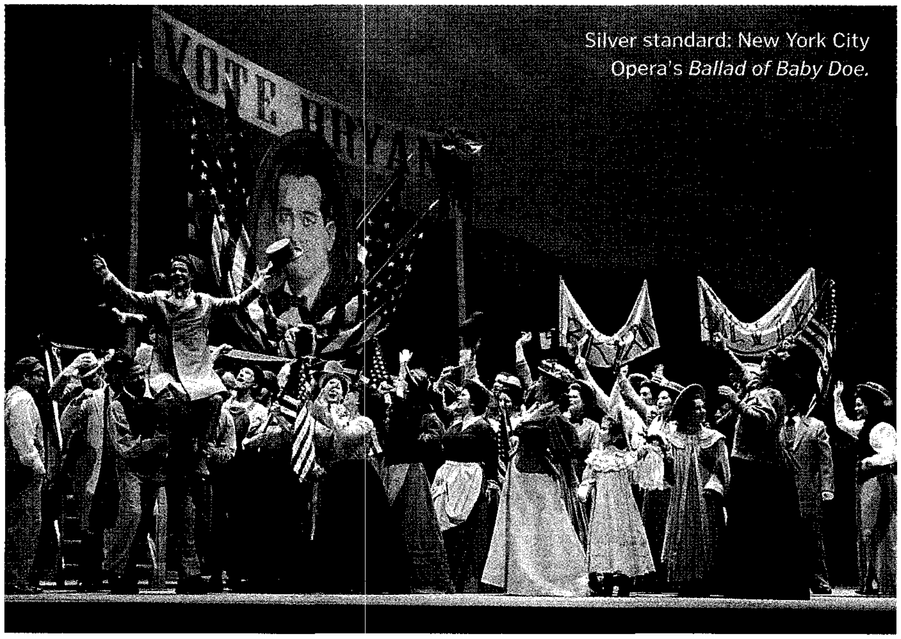
Elizabeth Futral's affecting performance in City Opera's revival of *The Ballad of Baby Doe* adds a tragic dimension to a sentimental favorite.

The Ballad of Baby Doe
A City Opera revival of the Douglas Moore opera, starring soprano Elizabeth Futral.
See Classical & Dance listings for details.

IT TAKES A STONY HEART TO RESIST Douglas Moore's **The Ballad of Baby Doe**, now playing in a new production at the City Opera. The composer himself was said to weep copiously during the final scene as the faithful Baby Doe, freezing to death in Horace Tabor's long-abandoned Matchless Mine in the mountains of Colorado, sings her "Leadville Liebestod." Apparently the Wild West setting and tuneful, Broadway-flavored score cannot be exported—this colorful slice of Americana drawn from real life usually gets sniffed at in Europe—but those same qualities have made the opera a repertory staple here. Luckily, the title role found its perfect advocate early on: Beverly Sills, a cuddly bundle of charm in her vocal prime when she starred in the City Opera's first production in 1958 and made a memorable recording, which has recently been reissued on the Deutsche Grammophon label.

Those who still have Sills's voice in their ears have always had a problem accepting her successors in the role, but Elizabeth Futral may win them over. Although her soprano has more of an edge than Sills's and she lacks that paradigm's Marchesi-style of training, Futral is a joy to hear as her silvery tone delicately traces the phrases of Baby's gorgeous arias (four in Act I alone). Her characterization is also imaginatively developed. The audience as well as Horace Tabor should fall in love with Baby Doe the instant she appears asking directions to the Clarendon Hotel—few operatic heroines are given a more effective entrance than this enchanting creature as she hesitantly wanders into view to the accompaniment of an offstage upright piano playing a seductive turn-of-the-century waltz. Futral seizes the moment and goes on to let us see Baby Doe's love for Tabor gradually deepen until we are confronted with a devotion equal to Isolde's for Tristan. An exquisite portrait.

Mark Delavan's burly baritone and blunt vocal style strike me as more apt for Tabor, the self-made panhandling man who bets on silver and loses, than the Verdi roles he now sings with such bluster. As his discarded wife, Augusta, perhaps the opera's most complex character, Joyce Castle has her finest hour and very nearly steals the show—as did her predecessor, the late Frances Bible (these performances are dedicated to the memory of that stalwart City Opera institution). I rather miss the lovingly detailed scenic touches of the previous production, but John Coyne's sets have plenty of atmosphere and cinematic fluidity while constantly reminding us of the Colorado Rockies and the enticing riches they once contained. Director Colin Graham is content to tell a good story with brisk efficiency, and the large cast is right on the money. *The Ballad of Baby Doe* may not be the Great American Opera, but it is one of the best we have and the City Opera is doing it proud once again.



Silver standard: New York City Opera's *Ballad of Baby Doe.*

TWO DISTINGUISHED NEW YORK–BASED VIOLINISTS turned 80 last year, Isaac Stern with much fanfare and **Robert Mann** on a quieter note. While Stern seldom plays in public these days, Mann continues to be in tip-top shape—when he left his post four years ago as first violinist with the Juilliard String Quartet, which he formed in 1946, it by no means signaled retirement. This past December, he performed a strenuous all-Bartók program at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and not long ago he was at Merkin Concert Hall playing the no less challenging music of Elliott Carter, with the 92-year-old composer on hand to lead the applause.

Even Mann can't make Carter sound easy, but he does open doors on this musical world and ushers a listener in with the skill, assurance, and poetic flair born from more than 50 years of exploring the terrain himself. He and pianist Christopher Oldfather are surely aware of the visual

Photograph by Carol Rosegg.

image behind the 1973–74 *Duo for Violin and Piano,* once described by Carter to Ned Rorem: "I thought of the keyboard as the inexorable flat side of a mountain, and of the violin as a fearful mountain climber." That description could just as aptly be applied to this compellingly characterized performance, as Mann's agile and articulate violin darted over the chiseled profile of Oldfather's rock-solid piano base. As first violinist with the Juilliard for the world premieres of Carter's Quartets Nos. 2 and 3 and having played the other two on many occasions, Mann must have been delighted to get his first crack at Quartet No. 5. This is another of the composer's compressed, lucid four-way discussions, here shared with Nicholas Mann (Robert's son), Ulrich Eichenauer, and André Emelianoff. A handful of short recent works filled out the program, including an elegant birthday tribute to Mann, *Rhapsodic Musings* for solo violin.

FROM AGE TO BEAUTY. THE HOT YOUNG composer of the moment is **Michael Hersch**, at 29 busily fielding one prestigious commission after another. The latest was *Umbra,* a 25-minute score for the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, which recently gave the work its premiere at BAM under Robert Spano's direction. Like many of his contemporaries, Hersch cultivates an expansive, lush neo-romantic style that will have no truck with Carter's rigorous academicism, let alone yesterday's minimalist fashions—here, obviously, was the perfect choice to help illustrate the heated *Liebestod* theme of the Brooklyn Philharmonic's current season: music that explores love and loss, ecstasy and pain, passion and abandonment.

Umbra has no specific program, but its brooding, nightmarish atmosphere definitely casts a dark shadow. There are seven movements, the first six slow, sparely scored, and pregnant with anticipation before the finale explodes into a furious fugal dash to the abyss. From someone who only decided to study music ten years ago, this is a remarkably assured score, even if the general effect, for all the melodramatic gestures, seems rather bland and featureless. Hersch is scarcely an inhibited composer, but he is so intent on being aggressively accessible that an individual voice seldom registers, a failing with so many of today's young neo-romantics. From a talent this big one wants to be astounded, not pleasantly surprised. ■

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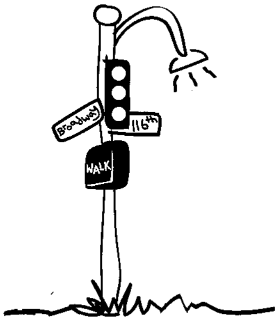

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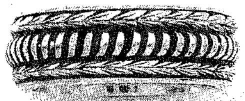

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DANCE TOBI TOBIAS

The Three Amigos

With contributions from longtime associates John Cage and Robert Rauschenberg, Merce Cunningham wrings emotion from abstraction.

MERCE CUNNINGHAM'S NEW **Interscape**, recently given its first New York showing at City Center, united the choreographer's talents with those of old confederates—the late John Cage and Robert Rauschenberg. Cage's score, *One*^{8}, from 1991, is predictably fascinating and inscrutable. It calls for a cellist to inject phrases of sound—some like fragments of conventional music, others squawks and groans—into a prevailing silence that itself becomes vibrantly alive.

Rauschenberg has created a pictorial fantasia with a pair of drop curtains and complementary stenciling on the dancers' unitards, so that, as in *Summerspace*, which he designed for Cunningham in 1958, the moving figures extend the flat, scenic element into a sculptural dimension. The front curtain for *Interscape*, executed in black and white, is a medley of images, including a colonnaded house, a ramshackle one, trees, globes, a horse in armor (perhaps from a carousel), the torso of a dreaming woman, and a giant flower. Lighting transforms the front curtain from opaque to translucent, briefly revealing the dancers at work, as if in rehearsal. It then rises to show an identical backdrop, now stained with the colors of archaic art: coppers and golds, turquoises and deep blues, flashes of vermilion.

Spaced in: *Interscape*'s Holley Farmer, Jeannie Steele, Derry Swan, and Jennifer Goggans.

Into this rich, sophisticated setting Cunningham injects movement that's equally enigmatic, fertile, and compelling. The fourteen dancers look like a whole world as they come and go, sometimes like small flocks of migratory birds, more often settling into duos and trios that explore a particular movement theme—or a spatial one, such as the relationship of bodies that keep a good distance between them. A gorgeous duet for Lisa Boudreau (a piquant glamour girl) and Cédric Andrieux (raw-faced, big-boned, and straightforward to the point of bluntness) explores the motif of bodies lying athwart each other and that of falling, with blind trust, into a partner's arms. These moves have a terrific emotional impact, despite the fact that Cunningham adamantly eschews the theatrical devices of narrative and character. For me, the dance conjured up images of the juggling, balancing acts, clowning, and magic tricks performed by bands of itinerant entertainers on fairgrounds in Europe, long ago. Cunningham's roots run deep.

The City Center run also featured the world premiere of **Way Station**, which I couldn't work up much enthusiasm for. It's stymied by the presence of five enormous paper-pulp constructions by Charles Long, a sculptor Cunningham took a fancy to perhaps without adequately considering that his instinct for rendering space (and time) as fluid, not fixed, is an essential part of his genius. Long's creations—which might be fanciful sea creatures conceived by Giacometti but executed in Easter-egg pastels—convert the stage space into several static areas, each of which declares, *This is here and, damn it, nowhere else.* James Hall's costumes only worsen the situation with their pseudo-sexy cutouts, their native-peoples motifs, and their refusal to move with their wearers' bodies.

Accompanied by a Takehisa Kosugi score, Cunningham's choreography seems equally balked. The dancers shelter a lot under the spindly structures, undulating aimlessly. Otherwise they're given to angular movements that contradict the body's natural inclinations. Derry Swan performs a solo of impossible postures, in which she acquits herself with aplomb, but which leaves the spectator's mind and muscles tensed to the point of spasm. Interestingly, couples are more stable here than is customary with Cunningham, who is far more persuasive when he operates in the realm of mutability.

Merce Cunningham Dance Company
Interscape, Way Station.
City Center.

Risa Steinberg
"A Celebration of Dance."
Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church.

Photograph by Tom Brazil.

RISA STEINBERG, ONCE A LUMINOUS MEMBER of José Limón's company, has been touring widely since 1986 with **A Celebration of Dance**, a solo program encompassing nearly a century's worth of choreography. Recently, she brought her show to the Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, where the program ranged from works by the radical Isadora Duncan and the pioneering Doris Humphrey through accomplished mid-century figures (Limón, Eleanor King, Anna Sokolow) to current practitioners such as Mark Morris and Ann Carlson.

As Steinberg's mentor the solo dancer Annabelle Gamson has pointed out, it takes a gigantic presence to sustain a concert on one's own. Steinberg doesn't have that charismatic force. What she does offer is finely honed technique, intelligence, integrity, and delicate sensitivity. She is a quiet dancer who gives the satisfaction of seeing something purely done, not one of those avid, reach-exceeding-grasp performers who may provide a greater thrill.

Steinberg was at her most eloquent in Humphrey's *Two Ecstatic Themes*, a primer of modern-dance concepts exquisite in its simplicity, and in the abstract portraits of intense emotion provided by Eleanor King (rage) and Anna Sokolow (grief). The latter two served as a reminder that Steinberg is inherently as much a dramatic dancer as she is a lyrical one. She was at her freshest in Mark Morris's 1983 *Bijoux*, a delicious compendium of fragments suggesting a girl, all pretty in pink, ardent, awkward, and amusing, at her first dance. Other works, by Wally Cardona and Colin Connor, are not rewarding enough to justify their inclusion on the program. A new piece, *Too Beautiful a Day*, created for Steinberg by Carlson, supposes that Steinberg is as effective talking as she is moving, which isn't the case.

The program was narrated by the British-born actor-dancer Valda Setterfield, whose cool elegance provided a useful contrast to the earnest earthiness typical of American modern dance. The commentary—admittedly helpful to the spectator innocent of dance history and necessary to allow Steinberg some breathing space—threatened to turn what should have been an aesthetic event into an educational one. But Setterfield's delivery was marvelous, in tone, in timing, and even as background when, between her remarks, she sat on the sidelines in the role of sympathetic, thoughtful viewer—the dancer's ideal audience. ■

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TELEVISION JOHN LEONARD

Super Nero

Imperious and mysterious, Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe was always a natural for television. Finally, A&E got him right.

REX STOUT WROTE 73 NERO Wolfe mysteries, each a music box or clockwork orange, a closed-time-table tick-tock mini-world, like the great detective's famous brownstone on West 35th Street in Manhattan, seven steps up to fine food, imported beer, rare orchids, strong opinions, and snits the size of monsoons. Weighing in at a seventh of a ton, addicted to crossword puzzles, bottlecap-counting, and *Lawrence of Arabia*, Wolfe was an eye so private, he never left his own music box. That's what he had Archie Goodwin for, a wise-guy assistant. And Saul Panzer, his slinkiest operative. And the permanently furious Inspector Cramer, who would round up the usual suspects for their unmaking in the book-lined study.

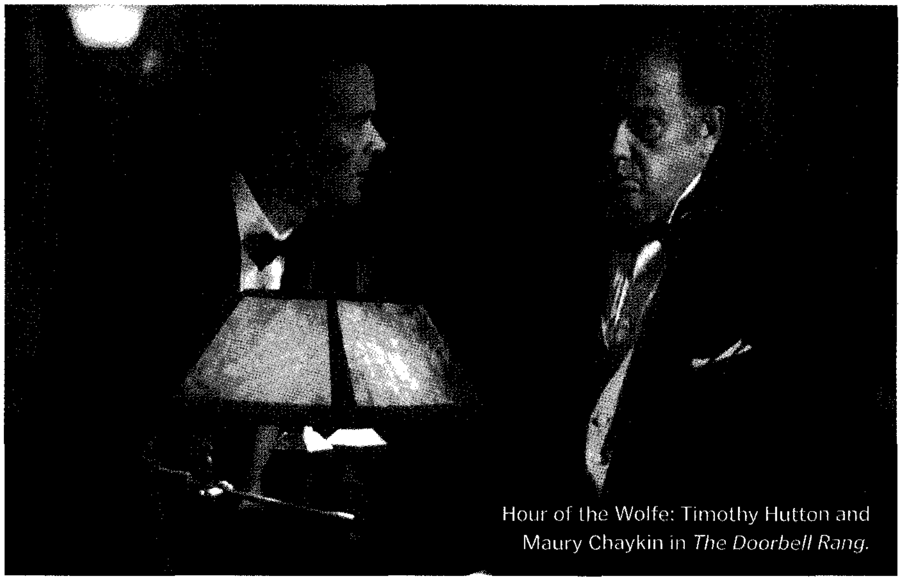
All of which should have been a television natural, but until now it hasn't worked. While a 1977 TV-movie adaptation of **The Doorbell Rang**, with Thayer David as the heavy, was intended as a series pilot, David's sudden death postponed a weekly Wolfe for four more years—and even then, William Conrad would only last on NBC from January to August. When *The Golden Spiders* turned up last March on A&E with Maury Chaykin as Nero and Timothy Hutton as Archie, I liked it so much that I hoped for a series. Thanks apparently to Hutton, for once I get my wish. Starting with another two-hour movie on April 22, and then subsiding on subsequent Sundays into hour-long episodes, the old-fashioned freelance detective makes a comeback. Of course, he has to do so in the hazy past, in the tinted forties and fifties, back when we believed the client was innocent and the system rigged, before we assumed guilt (and the position).

Nero Wolfe: The Doorbell Rang
Sunday, April 22; 8 to 10 P.M.; A&E.

Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express
Sunday, April 22; 9 to 11 P.M.; CBS.

Kiss My Act
Monday, April 23; 8 to 10 P.M.; ABC.

My only complaint is that we start off once again with *The Doorbell Rang*. It's a favorite of Rex Stout fans not because it's one of his best novels (it's just routine) but because it's the one where he went after the F.B.I. for bugging, tapping, tailing,



Hour of the Wolfe: Timothy Hutton and Maury Chaykin in *The Doorbell Rang*.

Photograph courtesy of A&E.

and otherwise invading the privacy of American citizens whose only crime was holding opinions contrary to those of J. Edgar Hoover. When Stout published it in 1965, however, Hoover was still alive and malign. Now that he's dead and a joke, it has lost its edge. Nevertheless, Chaykin's Nero is every bit as imperious as the late director, Hutton's Archie is so gleeful as his Sancho Panza–John Garfield sidekick that he seems to have been genetically engineered for the part, and when the doorbell rings, we do know exactly who is stranded on the stoop. And the dialogue (almost all of it right off the page) is peppermint-stick snappy. E.g., Archie to a client: "If you weren't rich, I'd marry you."

Never mind the megabucks widow, the sinister secretary, the murdered journalist, or the Fred Cook book Wolfe just happens to be reading—or, in next week's more satisfying "Champagne for One," the wonderfully choreographed charity ball for unwed mothers and the Hogarth gallery of grotesques who must face the music later on in Wolfe's study. It is the furniture of the series, the rooftop hothouse orchids, that are so appealing. Bill Smitrovich is back as Cramer, chewing cigars and scenery. Saul Rubinek, who played Saul Panzer in *The Golden Spiders,* has been mysteriously transformed for the series into Archie's newspaper-reporter buddy Lon Cohen, while Conrad Dunn takes over as Saul. After getting Debra Monk in the opener, we are promised other guest stars in forthcoming episodes, like Ron Rifkin. If Chaykin is not as huge as we imagine Wolfe to be—on the order of, say, an Orson Welles—he grows on us, eventually coming to embody an authority so oracular as to amount to a Montenegrin Buddha or a fat Freud. And Hutton has such a romping good time in his zippy suits, his snap-brim fedoras, and his spectator shoes, we suddenly realize that Archie, the comic relief of the novels, has also always been their moral compass, their Huck Finn.

Strauss richly deserves his multiple stab wounds. But Stephen Harrigan's screenplay also deserves credit, updating Agatha with sitcoms, laptops, and DNA evidence.

AS IF TO CHIME WITH THE RETURN OF ONE ECcentric sleuth, we get another in the TV remake of **Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express**. While Alfred Molina, Meredith Baxter, Leslie Caron, and Peter Strauss cannot compete in box-office boffo with the star-studded cast of Sidney Lumet's 1974 version of the Hercule Poirot mystery—imagine not only Albert Finney, Lauren Bacall, John Gielgud, Ingrid Bergman, Sean Connery, and Vanessa Redgrave but also Jacqueline Bisset, Martin Balsam, Anthony Perkins, and Michael York—they're a lot less lassitudinous than their predecessors, and I found myself surprisingly absorbed, even though I've known whodunit since I was prenatal.

Partly this is because Molina is a fine Poirot—more melancholy than foolish or foppish, shadowed by an unhappy love affair, taller than usual, and much less given to excessive fidgets than a Finney or a Ustinov. Caron, too, forever to be cherished for *Lilli* and *Gigi,* has sprightly moments as the widow of a Latin American dictator. Baxter seems to have recovered the sense of humor she so famously abandoned, after *Family Ties,* for television movies in which she killed men and abused substances. And Strauss richly deserves his multiple stab wounds. But Stephen Harrigan's screenplay also deserves credit, updating Agatha nicely with sitcoms, laptops, and DNA evidence, as well as witty references to Ross Perot and a Salt Lake City dinner-theater production of *The Mousetrap.*

If, miraculously, you still don't know whodunit, I will only tell you Roger Ackroyd didn't.

FINALLY, IN **Kiss My Act**, CAMYRN MANHEIM moonlights from *The Practice*—not a bad idea for all of them, in fact, just to get away from Bobby—as both Cyrano de Bergerac and Pagliacci. At a New York City comedy club, she is the all-wisecracking bartender and heartbroken clown who falls in secret love with a talent scout for a comedy festival, Scott Cohen, but who, instead of speaking her feelings to him, writes the stand-up and e-mail lines for a much thinner pop tart, "Malibu Barbie" Alexondra Lee, with whom the scout thinks he is smitten. On Camryn's side are Dabney Coleman, a sort of Sid Caesar–Bob Hope barfly who knows Camryn would knock them dead if she'd only take her own material to the stage, and Marlee Matlin, who needs sign-language help in Lamazing a baby boy. Some of this is very funny, like the routine about Thomas Jefferson and his slaves. Some of it's sadly painful, like the fat jokes. And much of it is more symbolic than a body ought to have to bear, like sign language, e-mail, *and* ventriloquism in one movie. But Camryn does knock us dead.

TV Notes

Passion & Prejudice (April 17; 9 to 11 P.M.; USA) requires the gifted actress Frances Fisher, as a New England college professor, to go completely bonkers after engaging the services of Derwin Jordan, an African-American prison convict on work furlough, to landscape not only her Atlantic coastal property but also her lonely bed. She teaches him to read, he teaches her to whatever. But when he gets out, enrolls in college, and meets coeds his own age and color, she will, of course, have to destroy him. What a waste.

Born in My Heart: A Love Story (April 20; 10 to 11 P.M.; ABC) allows Barbara Walters to stay at home, more or less in her own network newsroom, where a surprising number of ABC employees have either adopted children or are themselves adopted, and tell their heartfelt stories to the camera, as well as supplying home movies. We hear from Connie Chung, Carole Simpson, Cynthia McFadden, *20/20* producer Janice Tomlin, medical editor Dr. Timothy Johnson, Walters herself, her daughter Jackie, and Rosie O'Donnell. A very nice hour indeed.

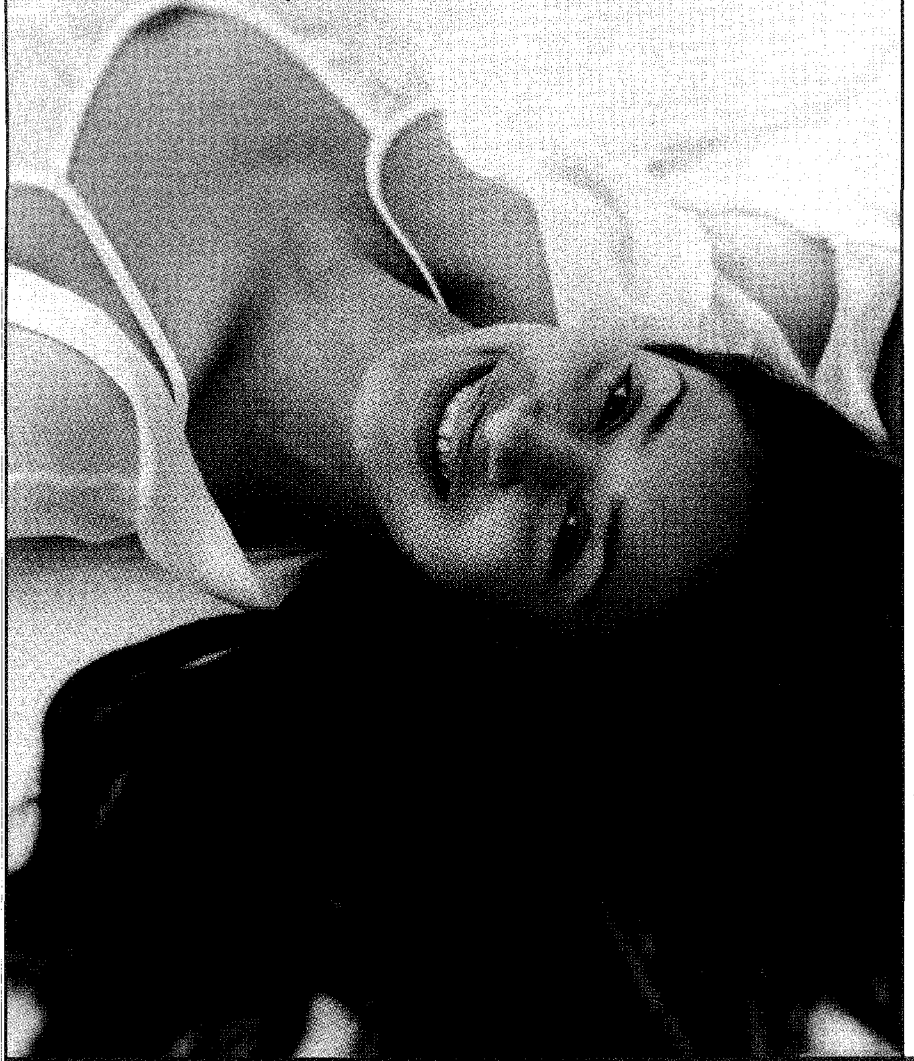
Rising Waters: Global Warming and the Fate of the Pacific Islands (April 22; 11 P.M. to midnight; Channel 13) goes to American Samoa, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands to, as it were, personalize all the heat-trapping carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by the burning of fossil fuels. After which you may want to go back to Kyoto and rethink America's position on the death of our only environment.

Stephen Foster (April 23; 9 to 10 P.M.; Channel 13) sends "American Experience" back to the nineteenth century to consider the alcoholic career of our first professional full-time songwriter, whose banjo minstrel music grew up, almost in spite of the college dropout who wrote it, from contemptible blackface stereotyping to something better—sentimental but also tragic and even humanizing. You will want to listen again to "Old Kentucky Home."

Backstory: Valley of the Dolls (April 23; 10 to 11 P.M.; AMC) goes behind Jacqueline Susann's novel, Mark Robson's film, and (subtextually) Susan Sontag's essay on camp, to pretend to think about rising starlets and falling Judy Garlands and dissolving pills. ■

COUNTDOWN TO SUMMER 2001

Summer is a state of mind. So when it comes to feeling comfortable baring your barricaded winter body, it's never too soon to start. It's time to begin counting down to the lazy days of warm weather, cool breezes, and a body that's fit to be seen. There have never been so many ways to recharge your looks and get a fresh attitude for summer. Our best advice: Stay focused. Be flexible. And forgive your shortcomings. Ready, set...summer. Don't look back.



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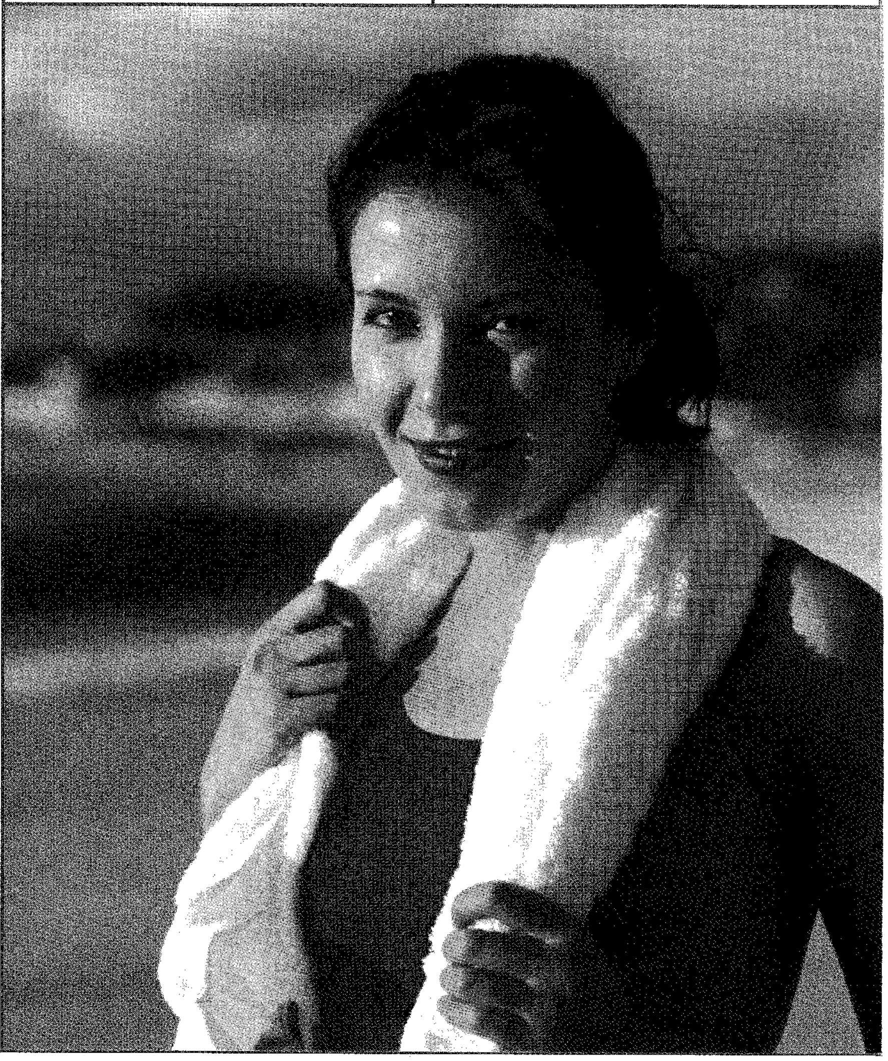
DIET AND FITNESS

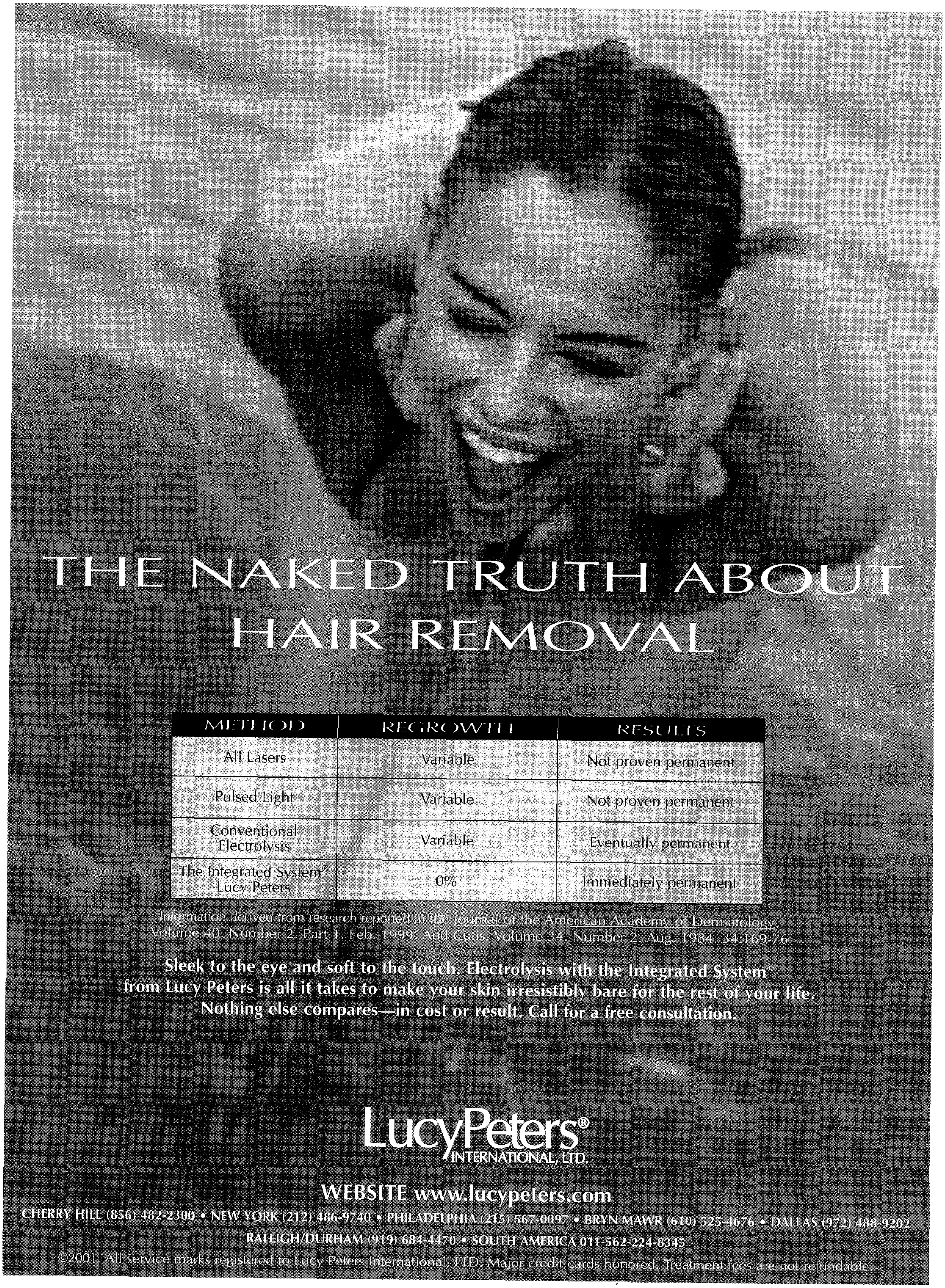
Now's the time to tune into your body and tune up. That's where **Callanetics** comes in. These are non-impact, deep muscle exercises that develop muscle tone without bulk. Callanetics combines isometrics and isotonics, as well as principles of ballet and yoga, to concentrate deeply on thighs, abdomen, arms, and buttocks. It may take a few sessions to get the hang of it, but you'll start getting stronger and fitter in just a few weeks. In fact, it's possible to lose one dress size in just 10 to 20 classes. According to Ruth Jeffries, owner of the **Manhattan Callanetics Studio,** clients claim that nothing lifts the buttocks like Callanetics. Fast, visible results are the workouts' signature. This is truly the ultimate workout.

> "Taking care of your body should be a year-round pursuit"

"Taking care of your body should be a year-round pursuit," says Harry Hanson, certified personal trainer and owner of **Hanson Fitness**. But he also knows we're only human and coming out of hibernation. So cut yourself some slack and get cracking. There is no mystery or magic to losing weight and getting into shape. According to Hanson, the three most important steps to losing those unwanted pounds are 1) focus on nutrition, 2) increase cardiovascular activity, and 3) add strength and conditioning to your workout. Hanson also believes in good old-fashioned calorie counting and one formula he swears by: body weight times 13 equals the number of calories per day you need to maintain your weight. "Write it down" he says. "Keep track of everything that goes into your mouth." If you want to lose weight, burn more calories by exercising and you won't have to count calories. With 15 years of experience, he's seen a lot of personal fitness goals set...and met. First and foremost, though, he works with clients to set realistic goals, change unhealthy lifestyles, and focus on moderation, all in a supportive, fun environment. The results will speak for themselves.

If pills, pre-packaged foods, and "diets" haven't worked for you, consider the integrated mind-body approach to weight loss and personal transformation at the **Skyler Madison Wellness** Center. After an in-depth assessment of your lifestyle —including any emotional issues that stand in your way—you'll get all the help you need to change the way you think about food. With hypnotherapy, personal counseling sessions, and an easy meal plan that gives you lots of energy (not to mention state-of-the-art cellulite treatments and body contouring with a Board Certified plastic surgeon), you'll be on your way to a new, improved you.





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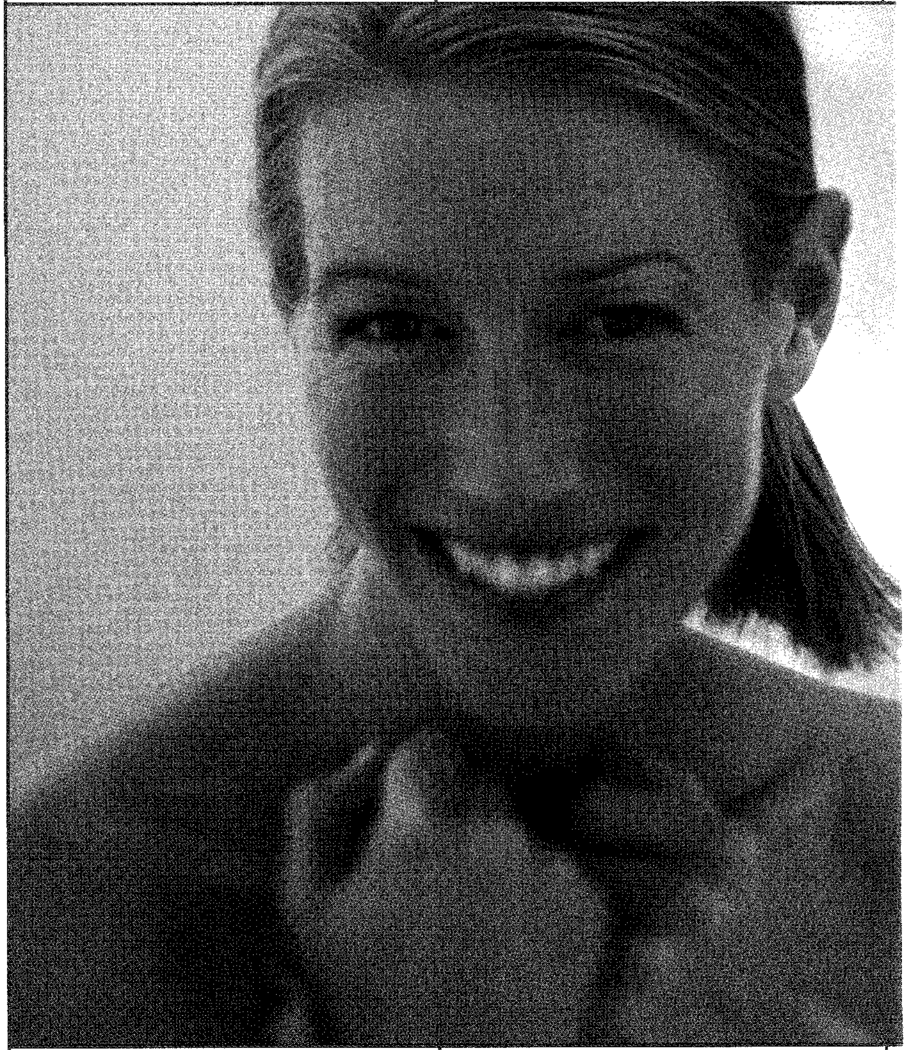
COSMETIC SURGERY

Denise Thomas knows that choosing the right cosmetic surgeon can be an overwhelming experience. That's why many busy men and woman turn to her for help. She's a leading cosmetic surgery consultant located in Manhattan and seen on *Oprah* and the Discovery Channel. For 20 years, Denise has successfully matched clients with surgeons best suited to their individual needs and puts an emphasis on discretion and knowledge. "I'm very selective," Thomas says, "and only recommend Board Certified surgeons who are experts in their fields." She's also very responsive to clients and will guide them through the first consultation and follow-up after surgery to make sure they're satisfied with the results.

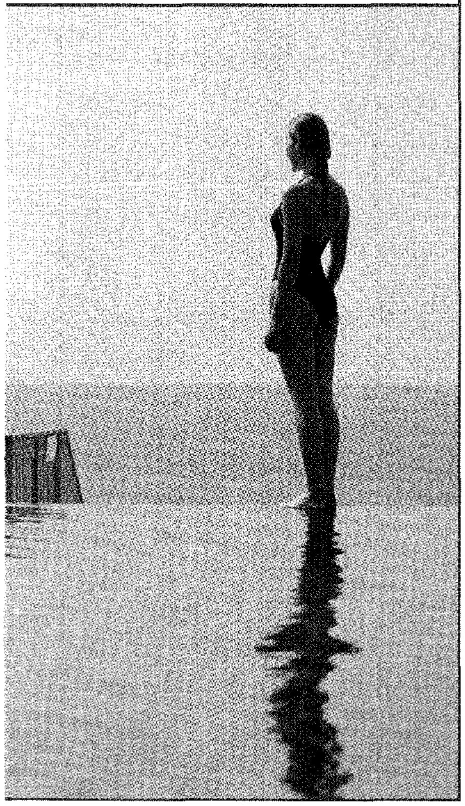
If being in an all-woman environment is important to you, then you'll want to look into the **Woman to Woman Cosmetic Surgery Center.** According to director Teresita G. Mascardo, M.D., FACS, a Board Certified plastic and reconstructive surgeon with more than 24 years of experience, there are many procedures that can be done in time to make you beach worthy with a minimal amount of recovery time. Breast lifts, augmentations, and reductions, and liposuction are the most popular. "We use saline breast implants for a natural, fuller look," says Dr. Mascardo. If taking care of troublesome saddlebags, a sagging stomach or a double chin is on your wish list, liposuction may just be the answer. And you still have time before you break out the bikini—the recovery time can be in as few as five to seven days. At the Woman to Woman Cosmetic Surgery Center, there is a full-service operating room on the premises, Board Certified anesthesiologists, and a comfortable and responsive environment and all-female staff.

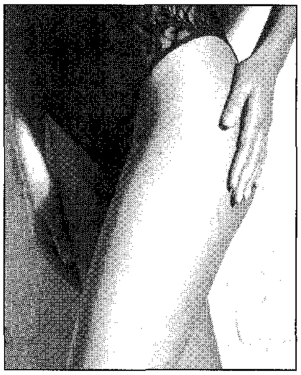


> "Perhaps the most difficult aspect of cosmetic surgery is choosing the right doctor."

Since everyone—men and women alike—wants to look their best for summer, this is the busiest time for cosmetic surgeons. Popular procedures performed by **George Lefkovits, M.D., FACS** are body contouring with liposuction and breast augmentation—often done at the same time to enhance body proportions. Tummy tucks are also popular. Dr. Lefkovits points out that if plastic surgery is done in the spring, there will be plenty of time to recuperate before bathing suit season begins. And lest you imagine that it's only women who seek to reshape less than perfect bodies, Dr. Lefkovits points out that men constitute a large part of his practice. The most sought-after procedures by men are body contouring, with or without liposuction, facial rejuvenation, hair transplantation, nasal profiling, and laser hair removal. Dr. Lefkovits is affiliated with Lenox Hill Hospital and Beth Israel North Hospital.

When you take feeling good about yourself seriously, state-of-the-art procedures can take you to the next level. Especially when you're looking for quick options before summer gets into full swing. Over the past year new office-based procedures have become very popular. "The face is becoming more and more the focus of attention," says Vincent Giampapa, M.D., FACS, director of the **Plastic Surgery Center Internationale.** "Specifically, people are paying attention the lips, lines around the eyes and forehead as well as laugh lines." Basically there are two main





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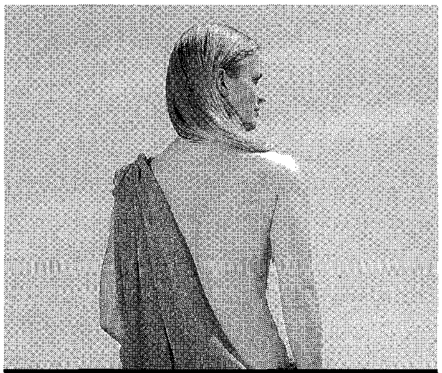

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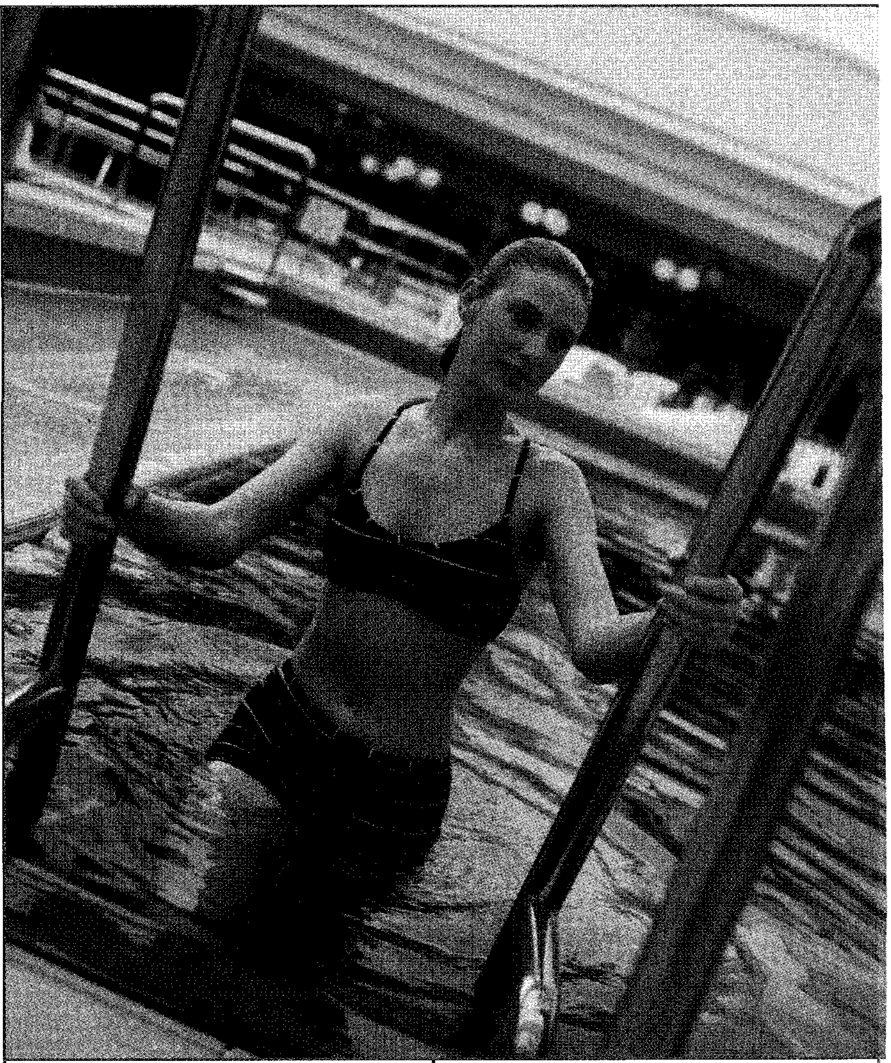
categories of non-surgical procedures available. The most common solution to wrinkles is Botox, which is injected to temporarily relax facial muscles, eliminating wrinkles for three to six months. Cymetra™ is a new, longer-lasting form of collagen which is also injected around laugh lines as well as near the mouth to create fuller, sexy lips. The combination of Botox and Cymetra™ can be extremely effective in as few as 48 hours, with minimal bruising or swelling. Of course with any procedure, it's important to choose the right doctor. According to Giampapa, the search should begin with a credential check. The doctor should be a Board Certified plastic and reconstructive surgeon who has extensive experience in your particular procedure. "With all the options available today, no one should feel they don't have the opportunity to look their best," he concluded.



It's the age-old rite: look in the mirror, heave a big sigh, get ready to take action. The first step may be to call **Dr. James J. Reardon**, Board Certified in plastic surgery, with over 25 years of experience. "Both men and women become body conscious when the weather turns warm." Reardon said. "A popular request in the late spring and early summer is breast augmentation for women, and breast reduction for men." Both procedures have a fast recovery time and produce an extremely natural look. In fact, you may even be able to back on the beach in one to two weeks. Liposuction for troubled spots like stomach, hips, and thighs can also be extremely effective. The recovery time can be up to two weeks, but may take several months to see the final result. Reardon also offers anti-aging skin care, including Micro-Dermabrasion and chemical peels. Depending on the procedure and the individual skin type, recovery times vary. Of course you'll need to take special sun precautions with these procedures, a hat and sunscreen are musts. In addition to Board Certification, Reardon recommends you look for a doctor with many case histories, someone who can explain the procedures clearly and answer all your questions. What's more, there should be an overall feeling of confidence from the entire office staff.

> "Researching a surgeon begins with a reference check."

At **Constructive Surgery**, Jeffrey R. Fischman, M.D., FACS, is a specialist in nose, face, and body cosmetic surgery. "This time of year is especially stressful for people," Fischman says. "Everyone is gearing up for summer, taking stock, and figuring out how to make changes. That's where I come in." The first step with Fischman is a complimentary consultation. He'll help you define your goals, figure out what is reasonable to expect, and use digital imaging

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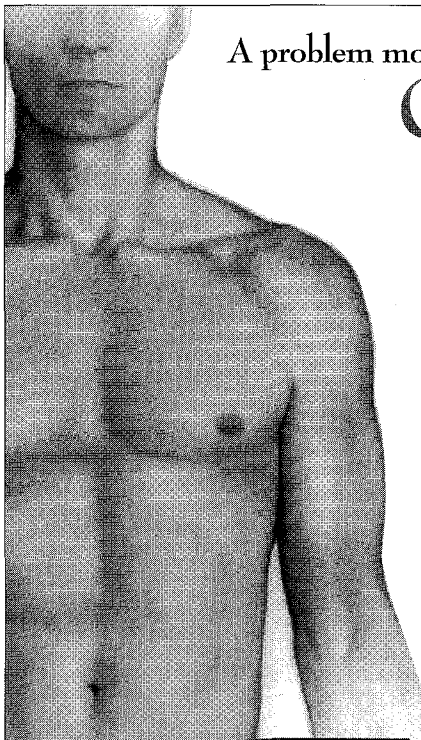
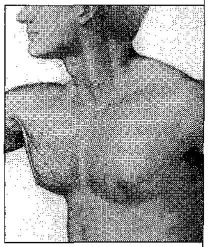
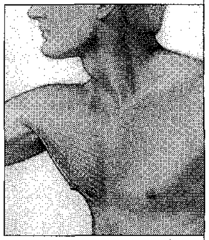


A problem more common than you may think.

Gynecomastia

One in three men suffer from Gynecomastia, an embarrassing condition that causes masculine breasts to become enlarged. Often a subtle imbalance of hormonal metabolism is the cause. Whether due to excess fatty tissue, glandular tissue or a combination of the two, if this condition distresses you, cosmetic surgery can be the answer. When extra *glandular tissue* causes the problem it is removed in sections through a small incision around the nipple-areola complex. For excess *fatty tissue* alone, only liposuction is needed. Using the latest technology, **Power Assisted Liposuction**, results and recovery time are enhanced. Your normal breast contour is restored. **Your confidence is renewed.**





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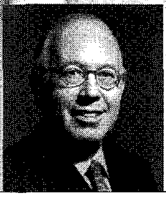

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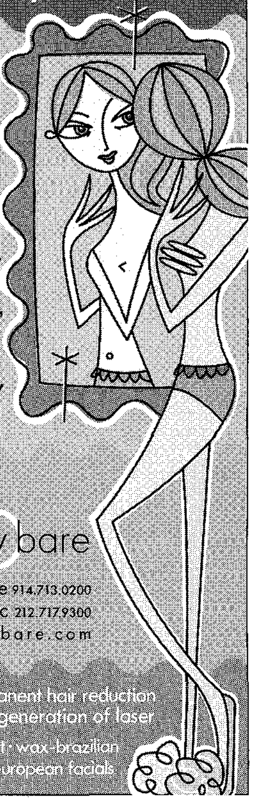

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> "One of the first steps with any surgical or cosmetic procedure is a consultation."

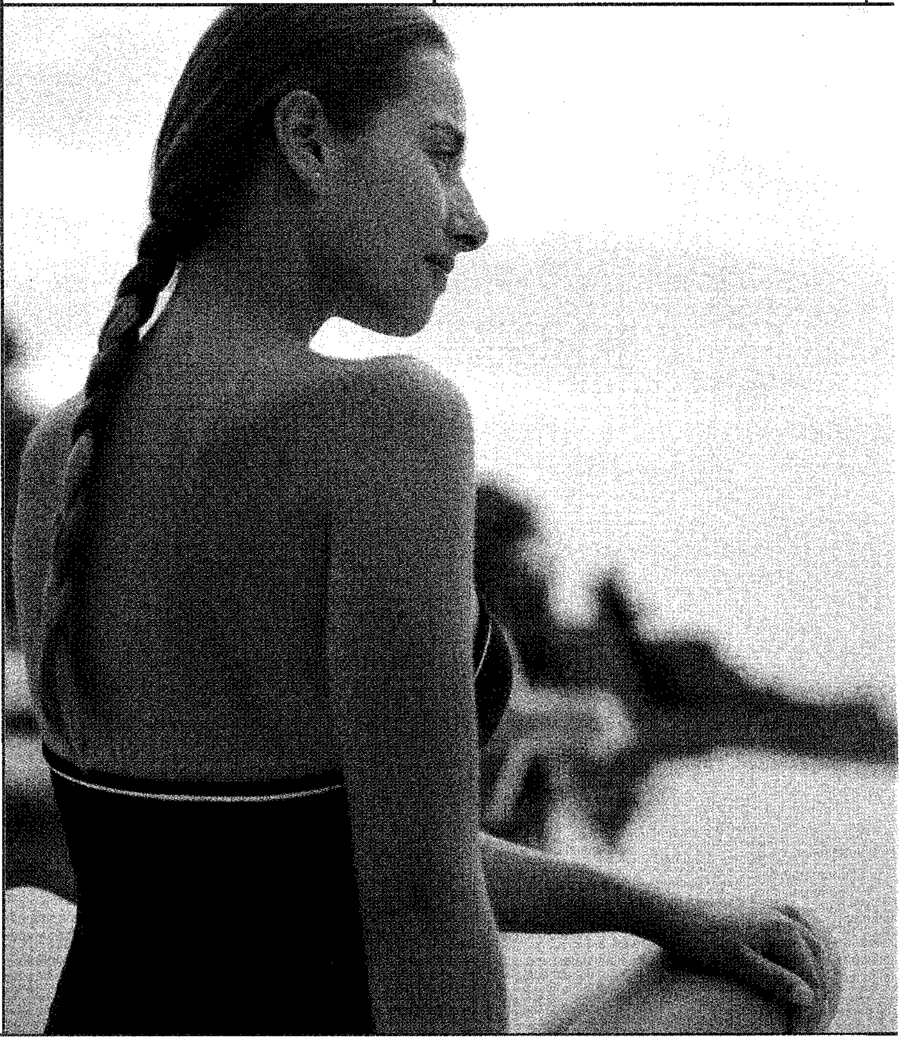
VEIN TREATMENT

Summer demands bare legs no matter where you happen to be. After months of being stuffed into stockings and smothered in socks, now's the time to liberate your legs. But if varicose or spider veins stop you from taking the plunge to bare legs, you may want to visit **The Vein Treatment Center,** the only center to exclusively treat veins. They offer a combination of treatments under one roof – from Endolaser, the newest procedure, developed at The Vein Treatment Center, a minimally invasive procedure that's a great alternative to surgery, no hospital involved, to sclerotherapy, where a solution is injected to re-route blood to healthy veins. All of these services are offered by specialists in a state-of-the-art facility.

Depending on the procedure, you can expect more than just better looking legs, you can get relief from swelling and achiness. But according to Luis Navarro, M.D., FACS, director and founder, a little prevention and maintenance goes a long way. "Exercise is the most important step to good vein health, especially any exercise that strengthens the calf muscles." It also helps to keep within 10 percent of your recommended weight and follow a low-salt, high-fiber diet.

HEALTH AND MEDICINE

Thanks to advanced fertility technologies, having a family can become a reality. The fertility program at **Reproductive Medicine Associates (RMA) of New Jersey** is run by a respected team of experts and recognized worldwide for their achievements. They also offer three full-service offices in New Jersey to conveniently serve patients in the tri-state area. "Many causes of male and female infertility can be successfully overcome by a range of treatment options" explains Michael Drews, MD, FACOG, of RMA. The first step is to schedule an appointment. During this two-hour visit you'll



have a chance to meet with all the members of your medical care team. "Once your infertility testing has been completed, we'll review the results and recommend a plan." This plan may include ovulation induction to enhance the production of healthy eggs, minimally invasive surgery to correct or improve anatomical abnormalities, or more advanced care using the Assisted Reproductive Technologies such as IVF (in vitro fertilization). Though the causes of infertility are numerous and complex, both male and female factors can be addressed with many of today's technologies. Whether you are recently diagnosed or just beginning to explore treatment you can expect a comprehensive approach to diagnosing and treating infertility. And you can expect hope.

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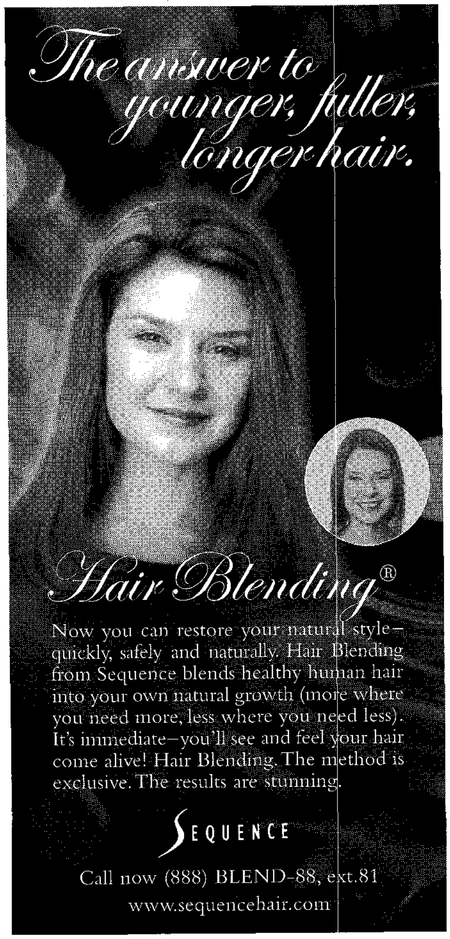

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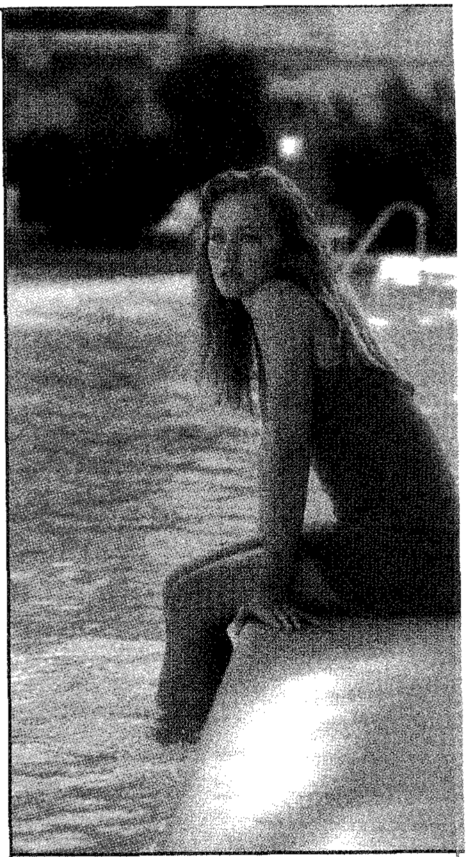
The integrative approach to medical care at **Path Medical** is unique, combining clinically proven therapies from both conventional and alternative medicine. Patients receive head-to-toe computerized diagnostic assessment; high-tech non-invasive tests are used to find the earliest stages of disease and aging. In recognition of the brain's global impact on illness and health, Path patients receive comprehensive brain health checkups. Path director Dr. Eric Braverman is one of the nation's foremost experts in Integrative Medicine—the combination of conventional, alternative, and holistic therapies.

BRIGHT SMILE

If you're like more than 50 percent of Americans, you aren't satisfied with your smile. Whether your teeth are stained by smoking, by what you eat and drink, or simply by aging, **Dr. Jan Linhart**, internationally recognized cosmetic dentist, located in midtown Manhattan, can remedy dental imperfections, leaving you with a completely natural and younger looking smile. Dr. Linhart offers an extensive menu of state-of-the-art treatments, including Pearlinbrite® laser whitening, porcelain veneers, and natural

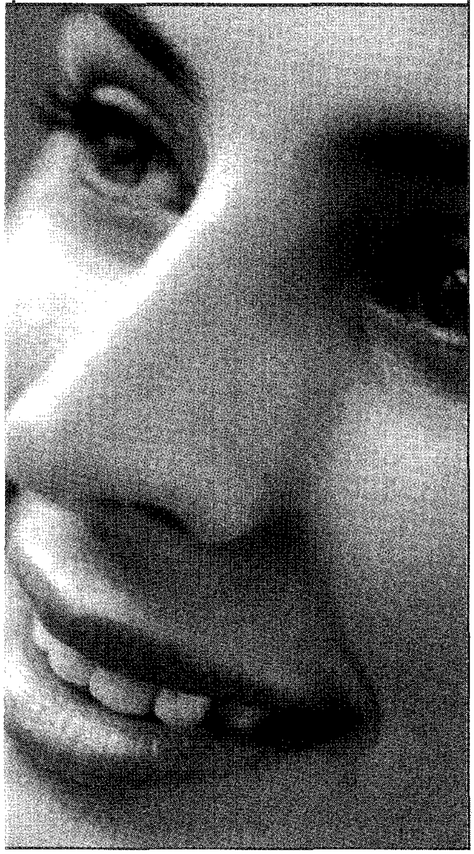


color restorations. Dr. Linhart also provides exceptional full-service dental care.

BEAUTY AND SPA TREATMENT

At **Dr. Howard D. Sobel's Skin & Spa Cosmetic Surgery Center**, you'll find the latest advances in dermatology, cosmetic surgery, and beauty. Dr. Sobel was named by *New York* Magazine as one of New York's best dermatologic surgeons. This luxurious 4,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art medical day spa includes a fully accredited operating room and is staffed by Board Certified physicians. The latest and most effective facials and body contouring treatments are available, including the newer, safer tumescent liposuction under local anesthesia, using a power-assisted canula. Medical and surgical procedures such as Botox, collagen, Micro-Dermabrasion, sclerotherapy and laser vein removal, chemical peels, face-lifts, and eye, nose, breast, and abdominal surgery are also offered.

Trying on a new swimsuit can be truly traumatic, but there's help at the **Anushka Day Spa & Cellulite Clinic.** For thinner thighs, a fabulous abdomen, and a toned tush, cellulite guru Anushka's solution is her intensive five-week Body Contouring Program, her signature combination of cutting-edge European techniques named Best Body Treatment by *Allure* Magazine. Based on 29 years of research and results, Anushka also offers quick body revitalizers—like the Hot Shot Slimmer, a self-heated oceanic wrap that targets problem spots from the waist down followed by a thigh contouring massage with Anushka's Hot Shot Thigh Gel. An intimate day



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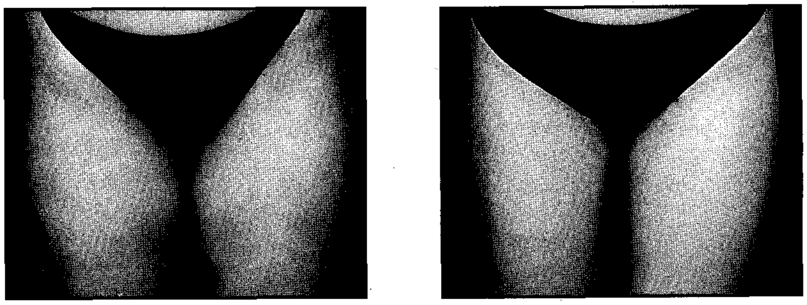

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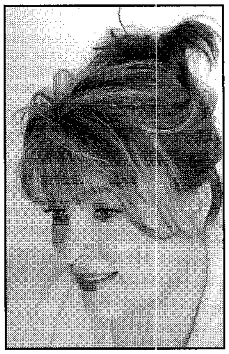
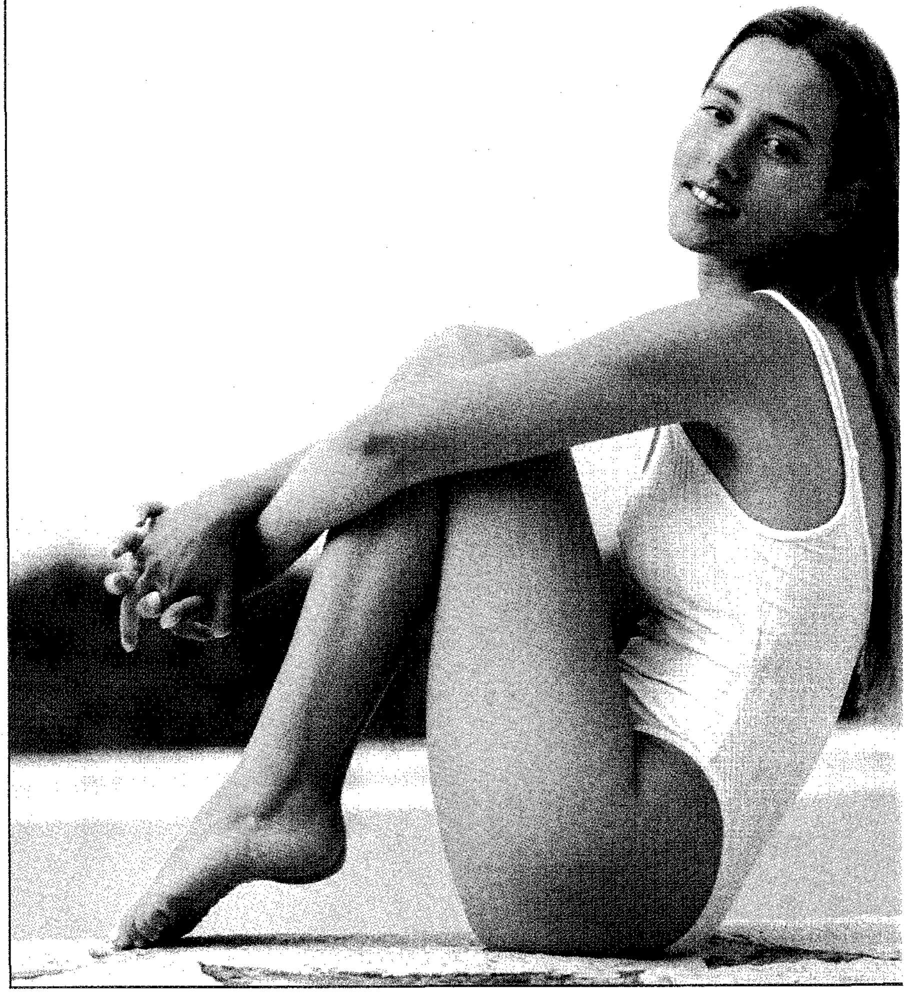


spa, with a repertoire of European pampering treatments, also should not be missed.

Before you slip into those skin-revealing summer fashions, refresh and rejuvenate your body from head to toe at **Jacques Dessange.** At this Parisian outpost on Park Avenue, an esthetician will wrap you with detoxifying seaweed, give you a revitalizing reflexology treatment-and finish with the Dess'Lift, which re-sculpts your face, plumps up fine lines, and leaves your complexion radiant. Top off your visit with a haircut by an internationally renowned hairstylist, who will personally fashion your hair to suit only you.

If you really want to get rid of hair, you must use electrolysis, says Lucy Peters, president and founder of Lucy Peters® International, Ltd. And if you use electrolysis, you shouldn't have the same hair treated over and over again.

At Lucy Peters, results are immediate and permanent-each hair is treated just once. With its patented LPS33® EPILATOR, The Integrated System® is a technically advanced electrolysis method developed during 10 years



of medical and engineering research and human clinical trials. More than 70,000 patients have undergone 1.7 million hours of successful electrolysis at **Lucy Peters® International, Ltd.**

At Lucy Peters, an individualized program is formatted for each patient, following an evaluation of the treatment site. A stringent screening process and the medically-based Lucy Peters teaching curriculum, developed with physicians, produces superior electrologists who are equally skilled in mechanical procedures and patient handling. Lucy Peters provides the only immediately permanent integrated system of electrolysis with no regrowth or scarring. Lucy, who started the company in 1969, after years of her own personal frustration with hair removal, warrants her quotes in writing.

Whether you want the newest, most effective anti-aging treatments or innovative skin and body care therapies, **Ajune: The Center for Beauty Synergy** has an armory of high-tech goodies. For example, the revolutionary new NLite™ laser reduces wrinkles and restores the skin's surface to its original state. The laser targets the tissue under the skin and stimulates new collagen growth, with maximum benefits to your appearance in two to three months. For a quick pick-me-up, try the signature Facial du Jour, which uses an edible blend of fresh fruits, vegetables, grains, and essential oils.

Just in time for summer, **Lia Schorr Skin Care** offers the latest, most advanced technology for removing unwanted hair: the Laser Hair Removal. The de-fuzzing is quick, effective, and comfortable, whether you're treating smaller areas like the underarms and bikini area or large areas like your legs. After the treatment, your skin will be smoother, softer, and more youthful looking. Since the skin will be exposed to the sun, this is the perfect time to rejuvenate, cleanse, and oxygenate your face. The salon offers the latest, most advanced treatment during the summertime, for men as well as women.

> "New technology comes to the hair-removal arena. One of these high-tech options may work wonders for you."

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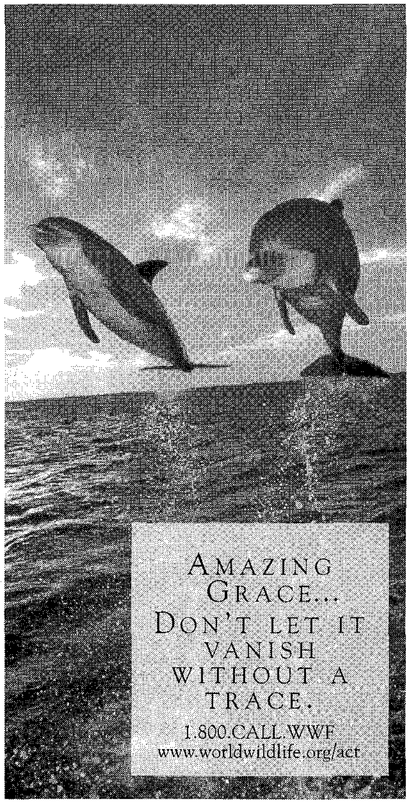
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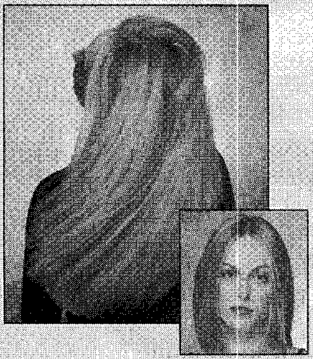

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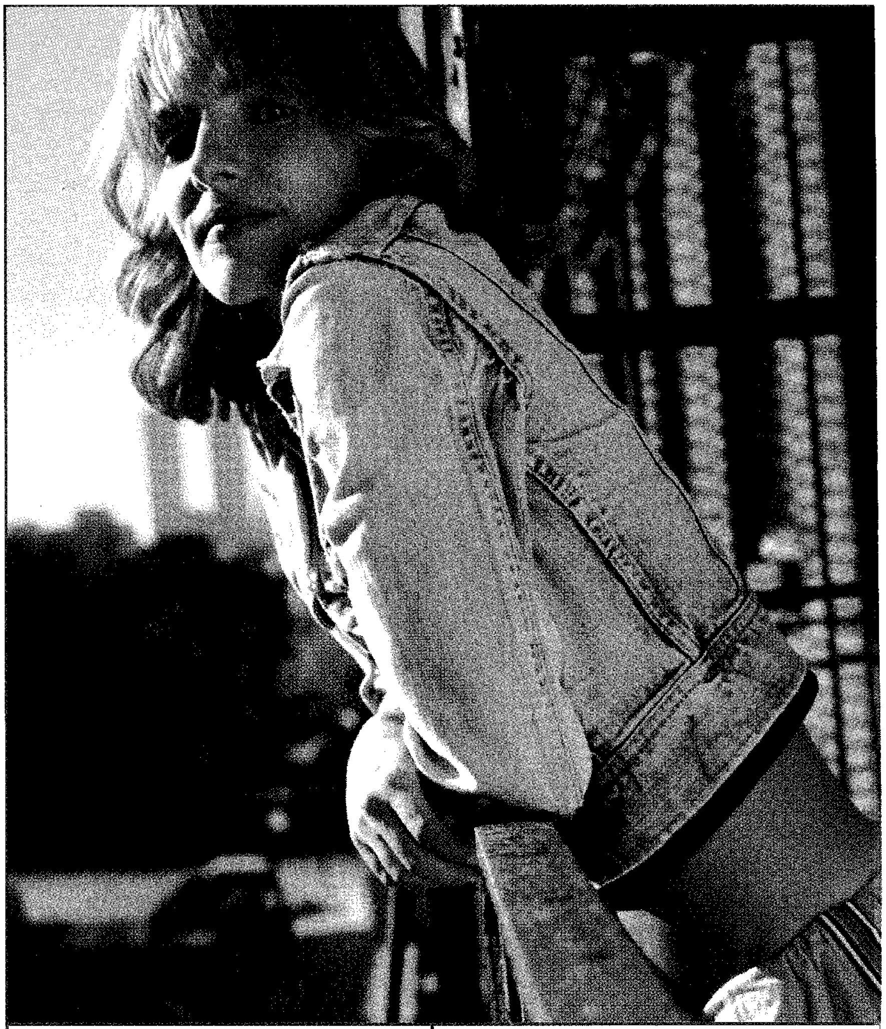

Scarsdale), where the revolutionary new Epifacial™ is offered. This non-invasive, risk-free alternative to surgery uses intense, controlled pulsed light to correct all skin imperfections—including wrinkles, broken capillaries, mild acne scars, and sun damage—without trauma to the surface of the skin. Best of all, your lines will continue to diminish and you'll look better with every passing day. Permanent hair reduction is also offered, for all skin colors, to get you ready for the beach.

HAIR RESTORATION

The **New York Hair Restoration Surgicenter** specializes in surgical techniques that restore permanent hair growth for both men and women. Medical director Robert Bonvino, M.D. evaluates each patient and designs a treatment plan based on individual needs and wishes. Hair is transplanted from a donor site on the patient's head where there is healthy hair growth to the area where he or she is losing hair. Results that are natural and virtually undetectable can be seen in about six months after surgery. Hair can be cut and styled and colored any way you like—because it is your own hair.

Why let thin or damaged hair dim your enjoyment of summer pleasures when solutions are at hand. New York Surgicenter's hair replacement experts can correct Mother Nature's mistakes, and in no time at all, you can look forward to great hair days, not just this summer but all year round.

At **LeMetric**, Elline Surianello, founder, women's advocate, and speaker on female hair loss, brings a unique perspective to this problem. Many people offer hair replacement, but she's also a client. Because she has experienced the devastating effect of hair loss herself, she has devoted the last fifteen years to designing the most beautiful and technologically advanced hair replacement systems for women affected by hair loss and thinning hair. It's not enough to simply put hair on a woman's head, she believes, it's important to create style and flair, to make a woman as attractive as she can be. And to that end, she now offers customized makeup to give you a total new look.

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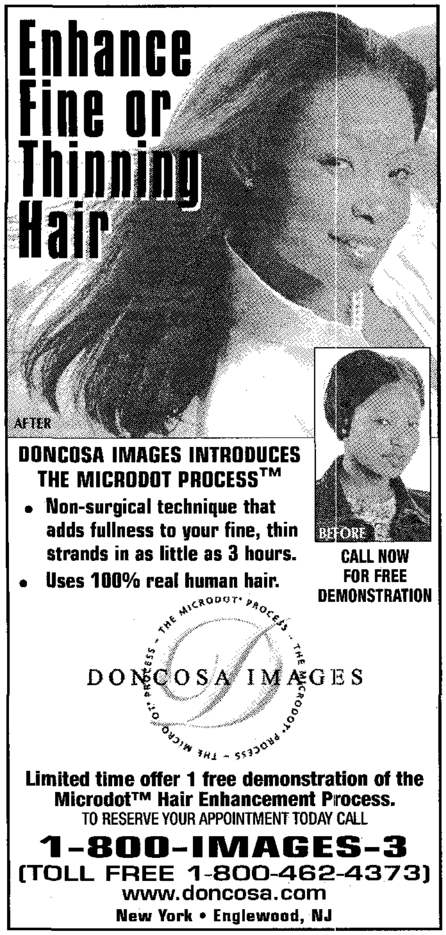

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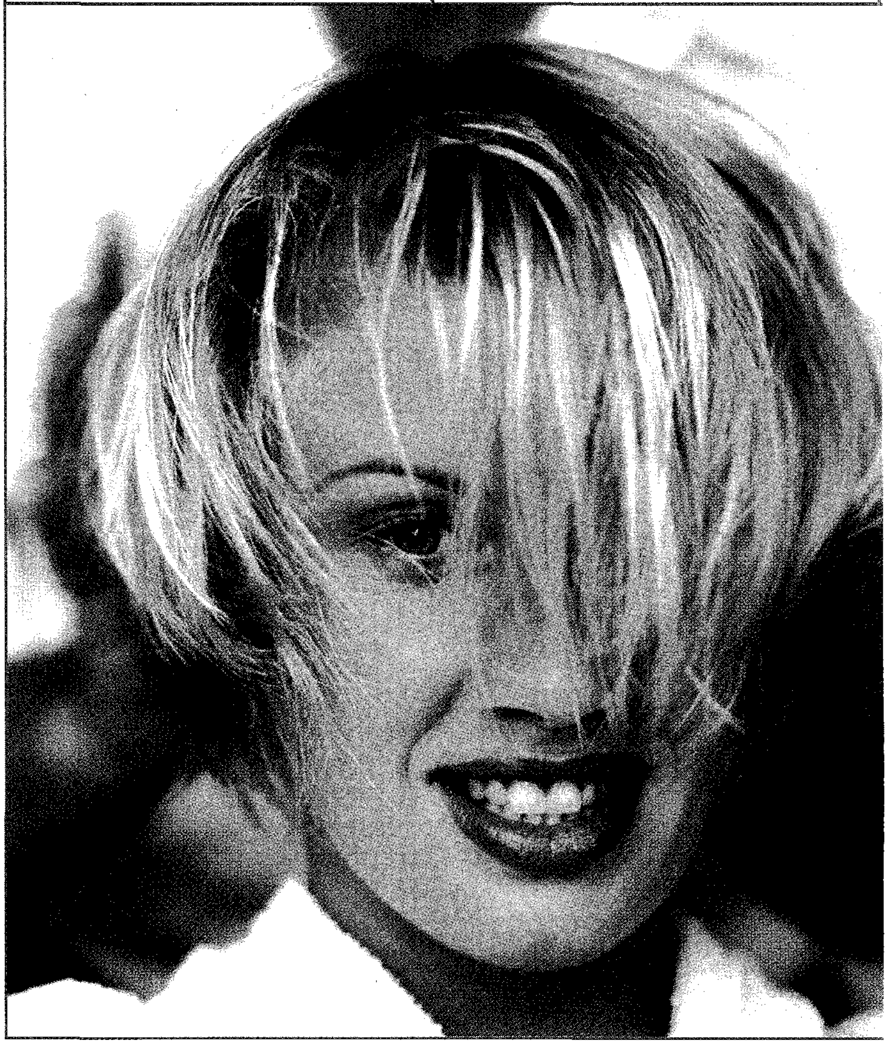
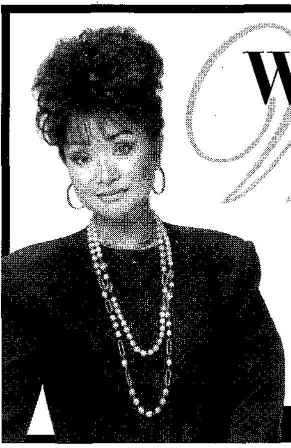
Thanks to the innovated technique known as Hair Blending®, **Sequence** can give you natural-looking hair that has natural flow and movement. Real hair is added one strand at a time and distributed in between your own hair, so that it blends completely with your own—and allows



you to style it any way you like. With Hair Blending, you can have not only increased volume with a truly natural look and feel, you can also add highlights in any shade you desire.

If thinning hair has made every day a bad hair day for you, the **Microdot™ Process** created by **DonCosa Images** can make you look fabulous again. This non-surgical technique blends real human hair with your fine strands creating thickness and volume in as little as three or four hours. It does not interfere with the growth of your own hair and it does allow your scalp to breathe. It's also ideal for women who would like longer, fuller hair—or even highlights—for special occasions. ☐

—Written by Lillian Africano & Elizabeth Fairchild



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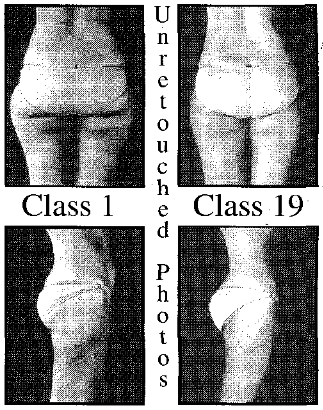

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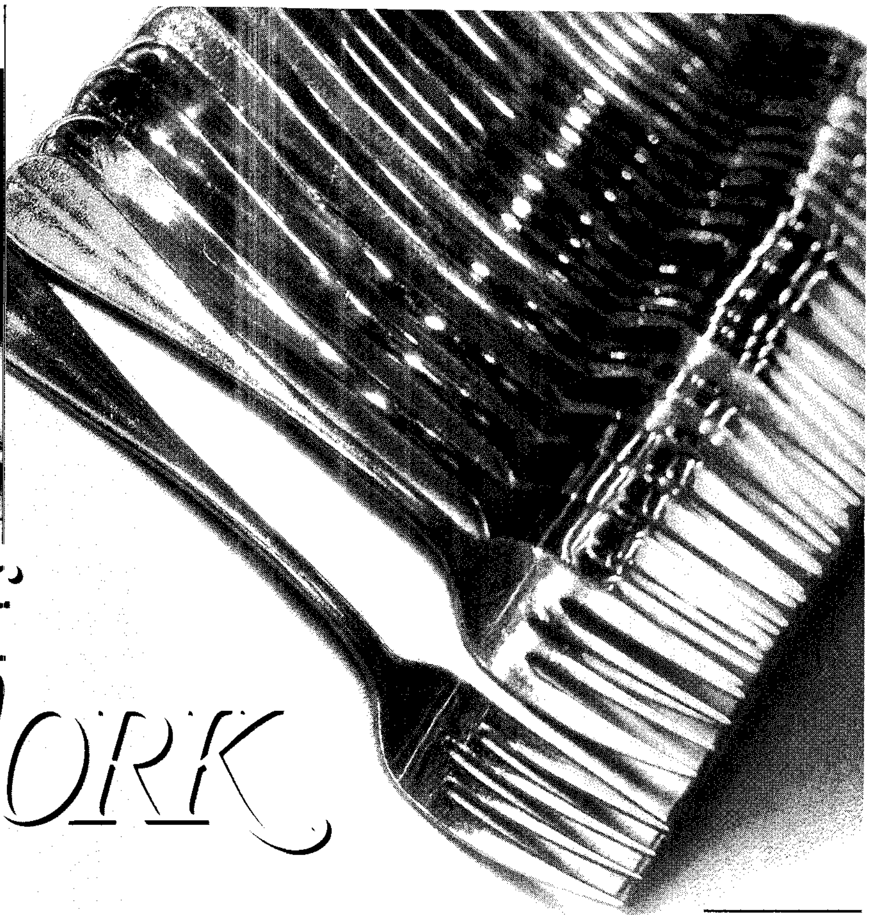

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This Week's Releases

Check mates: John Turturro, Stuart Wilson, and Emily Watson in *The Luzhin Defence*.

The Body
A Jesuit priest (Antonio Banderas) and an Israeli archaeologist (Olivia Williams) walk into a hardware store in Jerusalem, and director Jonas McCord's first feature film begins. (1 hr. 40 mins.; PG-13) • Opens 4/20.

The Center of the World
The inimitable Wayne Wang (*Smoke*, *The Joy Luck Club*) experiments with digital film in this story of a workaholic computer engineer (Peter Sarsgaard) and the stripper (Milly Parker) he lures to Las Vegas. (1 hr. 26 mins.; NR) • Opens 4/18.

The Charcoal People
A disturbing documentary about Brazilian migrant workers who eke out a living in the Amazon rain forest cutting down trees. Directed by the Academy Award–winning Nigel Noble (*Voices of Sarafina*). (1 hr. 10 mins.; NR) • Opens 4/20.

The Claim
Michael Winterbottom's follow-up to *Jude* is a wild Western about the California gold rush, starring Wes Bentley, Milla Jovovich, Natassja Kinski, and Sarah Polley. (2 hrs.; R) • Opens 4/20.

Crocodile Dundee in L.A.
Hoping to steal some of the Crocodile Hunter's heat, Paul Hogan and his real-life wife, Linda Kozlowski, reprise their roles in director Simon Wincer's (*Free Willy*) film. (1 hr. 35 mins.; PG) • Opens 4/20.

Freaks, Glam Gods and Rockstars
Featuring the music of Donovan Leitch, the Toilet Boys, and Jayne County, John T. Ryan's documentary about the New York underground rock scene is fast, cheap, and out-of-control. (1 hr. 14 mins.; NR) • Opens 4/20.

Freddy Got Fingered
Tom Green's trifecta—he wrote, directed, and stars in this film—is about an animator who moves in with his parents, Rip Torn and Julie Hagerty (*Airplane!*). (1 hr. 40 mins.; R) • Opens 4/20.

The Low Down
British alt-rock video director (Radiohead, Blur) Jamie Thraves's directorial debut is about a group of young Londoners' attempts to grow up. (1 hr. 36 mins.; NR) • Opens 4/20.

The Luzhin Defence
John Turturro plays a chess champion who falls in love with Emily Watson in this adaptation of Vladimir Nabokov's novel, by director Marleen Gorris. (1 hr. 6 mins.; PG-13) • Opens 4/20.

With a Friend Like Harry
West German director Dominik Moll's tense, eerie film is about a family whose vacation becomes perilous when the father (Laurent Lucas) runs into an old classmate, the titular Harry (Sergi Lopez). (1 hr. 17 mins.; R) • Opens 4/20.

New Films

The Adventures of Joe Dirt
David Spade searches for the white-trash parents who abandoned him when he was 8 years old. (1 hr. 33 mins.; PG-13) • CC Village East; Clearview's Waverly; Clearview's Chelsea; Loews Kips Bay Theatre; AMC Empire 25 Theatres; Loews Orpheum 7; UA Gemini; Loews 84th Street; Bay Plaza; Whitestone; UA Marboro; UA Movies at Sheepshead Bay; Main Street Cinemas; UA Astoria; UA Crossbay II; UA Movieworld; Atrium; UA Hylan Plaza; UA Movies at Staten Island.

Akira
Influential post-apocalyptic Japanimation cult film. (2 hrs. 5 mins; R) • AMC Empire 25 Theatres.

Along Came a Spider
Morgan Freeman reprises his role as detective and criminal profiler Alex Cross from *Kiss the Girls* in this foot-draggy but well-plotted crime thriller about an insanely ambitious kidnapper. (Rainer; 4/16/01) (1 hr. 47 mins; R) • Loews Village; Loews 19th St. East; Loews Kips Bay Theatre; Clearview's Ziegfeld; Loews 42nd Street E Walk; Loews New York Twin; Loews Orpheum 7; Clearview's Metro Cinema; Magic Johnson Harlem USA; Sony Lincoln Square; Bay Plaza; Concourse Plaza; Whitestone; CO Kings Plaza; Linden Boulevard Multiplex; Pavilion; Ridgewood; UA Movies at Sheepshead Bay; Centre Sunnyside; Cinemart; Kaufman Astoria Cinema; Main Street Cinemas; Plaza; UA Crossbay; UA Movies at Bayside; Atrium; UA Hylan Plaza; UA Movies at Staten Island; YWCA Cine-Club.

American Desi
A love story about a young Indian man (Deep Katdare) who needs the girl of his dreams (Purva Bedi) to discover the culture he tried to ignore. (1 hr. 40 mins.; NR) • Cinema Village.

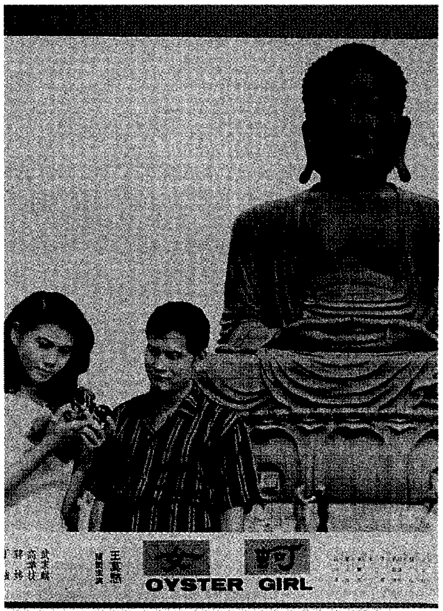
★ Amores Perros
The debut feature from director Alejandro González Iñárritu is an extraordinary triptych about life and suffering in Mexico City. In each of the three sections, which cross over into one another, the subject is the damage done to people by violence. (Rainer; 4/9/01) (2 hrs. 33 mins.; R) • UA Union Square; AMC Empire 25 Theatres; CC Eastside Playhouse; UA East; Lincoln Plaza Cinemas; New Coliseum; Nova; Whitestone; bam Rose Cinemas; Ridgewood; Kew Gardens Cinemas; Plaza.

Beautiful Creatures
Two Englishwomen put their abusive boyfriends behind them in first-time-director Bill Eagle's smart dark comedy. Starring Rachel Weisz. (1 hr. 35 mins.; R) • CC Village East.

★ Before Night Falls
Julian Schnabel directs, and he combines an extraordinary range of emotional colorations—the film goes from rhapsodic lyricism to horror in a blink. (Rainer; 1/8/01) (2 hrs. 13 mins; R) • Quad Cinema; Clearview's Chelsea.

Billy Elliot
The film is such a prodigious feat of four-hankie engineering that Julie Walters's fierce performance as the boy's dancing instructor may get lost in the suds. (Rainer; 10/23/00) (1 hr. 40 mins.; R) • CC Village East.

Blow
Johnny Depp stars as the real-life drug dealer and junkie George Jung. The early scenes set in Manhattan Beach have an ominous casualness, and so does Depp's performance. But George never really takes hold of our imaginations: a cipher in misery is still a cipher. (Rainer; 4/16/01) (2 hrs.; R) • Loews Village; CC Murray Hill Cinemas; Loews 19th St. East; AMC Empire 25 Theatres; CC Cinemas 1, 2, 3; Loews Orpheum 7; Magic Johnson Harlem USA; Sony Lincoln Square; Bay Plaza; Whitestone; bam Rose Cinemas; CO Alpine; Linden Boulevard Multiplex; Pavilion; UA Movies at Sheepshead Bay; Centre Sunnyside; Kaufman Astoria Cinema; Main Street Cinemas; UA Crossbay II; UA Movieworld; UA Hylan Plaza; UA Movies at Staten Island.



Opening

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Influences

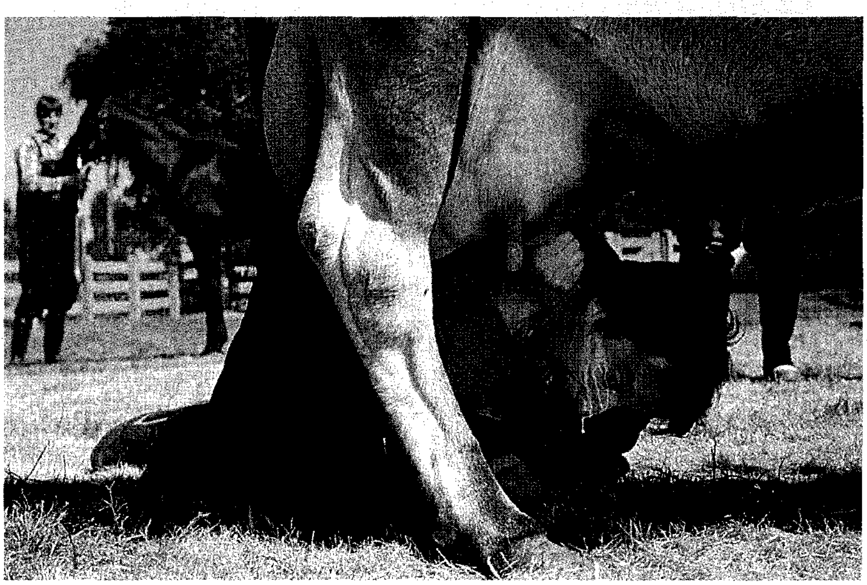
"Because Ang Lee and *Crouching Tiger* have become trendy and popular in America," says 70-year-old director Lee Hsing, who will be honored at **Two Taiwanese Masters: The Cinema of Lee Hsing and Wang T'ung** at the Anthology Film Archives, "it's important to remember that he didn't come from nowhere—he grew up on the films of Taiwan." And no Taiwanese directors have been more influential than Mr. Lee, whose apolitical films like *Oyster Girl* (pictured) have a serene Buddhist feel, and Mr. Wang, whose cutting work sharply criticizes the Chinese government. The seventeen-film series begins April 20. (For complete listings, see "Museums, Societies, Etc.")

Photographs: top, Mark Tillie; bottom, courtesy of Anthology Film Archives.

Opening

Mugging for the Cycle

Somewhere between the "Bum Bum" video, the testicular-cancer special, and the engagement to Drew Barrymore, **Tom Green** (pictured) became bankable. Hence *Freddy Got Fingered,* Mr. Green's newest entertainment endeavor. He's gone from college radio to public-access TV, from MTV to film cameos, and now he makes his directorial debut (which he also stars in and co-wrote). This sorta autobiographical film, about a would-be animator who enthusiastically moves into his unenthusiastic parents' basement, features, of course, Mr. Green doing all his own unique stunts. (For instance, sucking a cow's udder like a Tootsie Roll Pop.) The extreme entertainment will do one thing for sure: It raises the bar for MTV's newest gonzo star, Johnny Knoxville, of blowtorch and BMX-jousting fame. Pay close attention to the first weekend's box office, Johnny. Your future depends on it. *Freddy Got Fingered* opens April 20.



Photograph by Chris Helcermanas-Benge.

Bridget Jones's Diary
Renée Zellweger is charming in this otherwise mostly forced and unsprightly comedy based on the 1997 Helen Fielding best-seller. Hugh Grant and Colin Firth play her two suitors, and the Jane Austen–ish conceit doesn't work with these dullards. Austen would have tossed them overboard. (Rainer; 4/23/01) (1 hr. 34 mins.; R) • Loews Village; Loews 19th St. East; Loews Kips Bay Theatre; CC Cinemas 1, 2, 3; Loews 42nd Street E Walk; Loews Orpheum 7; Clearview's Olympia; Sony Lincoln Square; Whitestone; Pavilion; UA Movies at Sheepshead Bay; UA Movies at Bayside; UA Movieworld; Atrium; UA Movies at Staten Island; YWCA Cine-Club.

The Brothers
A group of friends have to face their commitment issues when one of their crowd decides to get married. Bill Bellamy and Morris Chestnut star in writer-director Gary Hardwick's cinematic debut. (1 hr. 43 mins.; R) • Battery Park City Cinema; Loews 19th St. East; AMC Empire 25 Theatres; Clearview's 59th Street East; Loews Orpheum 7; Loews 84th Street; Magic Johnson Harlem USA; Bay Plaza; Concourse Plaza; Whitestone; CO Kings Plaza; Linden Boulevard Multiplex; Canarsie; Jackson Triplex; Kaufman Astoria Cinema; UA Crossbay.

Chocolat
Juliette Binoche plays the owner of a chocolate shop whose dainties bewitch a small town. Co-stars Johnny Depp and Alfred Molina; Lasse Hallström directs. (1 hr. 41 mins.; PG-13) • Battery Park City Cinema; CC Angelika Film Center; AMC Empire 25 Theatres; Cinemart; CO Fresh Meadows; Kaufman Astoria Cinema.

Chopper
From Australia with blood, writer-director Andrew Dominik presents a homicidal maniac (Eric Bana) with a killer sense of humor. (1 hr. 34 mins.; NR) • Film Forum.

★ The Circle
Jafar Pahani's movie about the linked lives of a series of fugitive women has been banned in Iran, and it's easy to see why. The ordeals the women endure are made to seem like summations of human experience; their misery and resolution come through with the force of accusation. (Rainer; 4/23/01) (1 hr. 31 mins.; NR) • CC Angelika Film Center; Lincoln Plaza Cinemas.

★ Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
Set in nineteenth-century China, this Ang Lee movie is a ravishing martial-arts romance with sequences as magical as anything in the movies. (Rainer; 12/11/00) (1 hr. 54 mins.; R) • Battery Park City Cinema; CC Angelika Film Center; Clearview's Chelsea; Loews Kips Bay Theatre; Loews 42nd Street E Walk; UA Gemini; Lincoln Plaza Cinemas; CO Alpine; Cinemart; Kaufman Astoria Cinema.

The Dish
Sam Neill plays an eccentric scientist on a remote Australian farm whose satellite dish is the only one capable of receiving Neil Armstrong's first step on the moon. Directed by Rob Stitch. (1 hr. 44 mins; PG-13) • CC Village East; AMC Empire 25 Theatres; Sony Lincoln Square; Kew Gardens Cinemas.

Enemy at the Gates
Jean-Jacques Annaud's WWII movie is a compendium of old-time war-movie clichés. It stars Jude Law, impossibly miscast, as a Ural shepherd boy, and Ed Harris, as his Nazi counterpart, and he's the only good thing in the movie. (Rainer; 3/26/01) (2 hrs. 11 mins.; R) • Battery Park City Cinema; Quad Cinema; Loews Kips Bay Theatre; AMC Empire 25 Theatres; Loews Coronet; New Coliseum; Sony Lincoln Square; CO Alpine; Pavilion; UA Marboro; Jackson Triplex; Kaufman Astoria Cinema; UA Movieworld; Atrium.

Exit Wounds
DMX and Steven Seagal team up to bring down a gaggle of corrupt cops in Detroit. Directed by Andrzej Bartkowiak (*Romeo Must Die*). (1 hr. 40 mins.; R) • Battery Park City Cinema; Loews 42nd Street E Walk; Loews 84th Street; Magic Johnson Harlem USA; Bay Plaza; Concourse Plaza; Whitestone; CO Kings Plaza; Linden Boulevard Multiplex; UA Movies at Sheepshead Bay; UA Astoria; UA Crossbay II; UA Movies at Staten Island.

15 Minutes
Writer-director John Herzfeld's lurid melodrama stars Robert De Niro as a celebrity cop and Ed Burns as an arson investigator. They team up well, but the film is rancorous and overblown. (Rainer; 3/19/01) (2 hrs.; R) • Battery Park City Cinema; UA Union Square; Loews State; UA Astoria.

★ Gladiator
Ridley Scott's attempt to make a Roman epic on the scale of *Spartacus* or *Ben-Hur* while presenting us with a hero, Russell Crowe's Maximus, who is monumentally withdrawn. (Rainer; 5/15/00) (2 hrs. 30 mins.; R) • Loews State.

Hannibal
Anthony Hopkins is a plumper, more princely cannibal Hannibal Lecter this time out, and he's also more cartoonized—a figure of grisly fun. (Rainer; 2/19/01) (1 hr. 50 mins.; R) • Battery Park City Cinema; Loews State; CO Fresh Meadows; Kaufman Astoria Cinema.

Heartbreakers
Sigourney Weaver and Jennifer Love Hewitt play mother-daughter con artists in this lame comedy also starring Gene Hackman as a teeth-stained tobacco heir with a perpetual retching cough. (Rainer; 4/2/01) (2 hrs. 4 mins.; PG-13) • Battery Park City Cinema; Clearview's Waverly; UA Union Square; Clearview's Chelsea; Loews Kips Bay Theatre; AMC Empire 25 Theatres; Clearview's First & 62nd St.; Clearview's Park and 86th St.; Sony Lincoln Square; Bay Plaza; CO Alpine; Pavilion; UA Movies at Sheepshead Bay; Cinemart; Main Street Cinemas; North Shore Towers; UA Crossbay II; Atrium; UA Movies at Staten Island.

Ground Rules

These brief reviews, where noted, are condensed versions of reviews by Peter Rainer. Stars (★) denote current releases that *New York* recommends, ranging from best-of-the-year picks to worthy curios to flawed movies with one outstanding element. Reviews are followed by the names of theaters where the film is playing.

In the Mood for Love
Wong Kar-Wai's new film is set in Hong Kong in 1962, but most of it is shot indoors. Trancelike yet chi-chi, it's an example of pop schlock aestheticism. (Rainer; 2/6/01) (2 hrs. 10 mins.; R) • Battery Park City Cinema; CC Village East.

Josie and the Pussycats
The Spice Girls meet *Spinal Tap* in this feature-length *Behind the Music.* Rosario Dawson, Tara Reid, and Rachael Leigh Cook play the band, Alan Cumming the manager. Written and directed by Deborah Kaplan and Harry Elfont. (1 hr. 33 mins.; PG-13) • UA Union Square; Clearview's Chelsea; Loews Kips Bay Theatre; Loews 42nd Street E Walk; Clearview's First & 62nd St.; Loews Orpheum 7; Loews 84th Street; Bay Plaza; Concourse Plaza; Whitestone; Linden Boulevard Multiplex; Pavilion; UA Marboro; UA Movies at Sheepshead Bay; Centre Sunnyside; Main Street Cinemas; UA Astoria; UA Crossbay II; UA Movies at Bayside; UA Movieworld; Atrium; UA Hylan Plaza; UA Movies at Staten Island; YWCA Cine-Club.

Just Visiting
Jean Reno and Christian Cavier play eleventh-century knights who are transported by Malcolm McDowell to modern-day Chicago. Directed by Jean-Marie Poiré. (1 hr. 28 mins; PG-13) • CC Village East; Clearview's Chelsea; Loews Kips Bay Theatre; AMC Empire 25

Opening

Filming a Pilot

Hit Them Hard, a new documentary from director Erik de Castro about World War II's volunteer Brazilian airmen, is actually based on an autobiographical novel, *Senta a Pua,* by Major General Rui Moreira Lima (pictured, left, with John Richardson Cordeiro e Silva). When he volunteered in 1944, Lima flew a P-47, "the best fighter plane of the whole war," and his book, published 40 years later, became an indelible part of his country's self-image. "I was dying of heartbreak every day," recalls the general, now 81 and in New York for the premiere. "When I went to war, my wife, Julinha, was seven months pregnant; when I returned home victorious, my daughter, Sonia, was 7 months old." He survived 94 missions and saw the Brazilian Fighter Squadron go from a novelty unit (like the Jamaican bobsled team) to a crucial part of the Allied war effort. Director Castro did more than 24 hours of interviews with the 25 surviving pilots of the First Brazilian Fighter Squadron, and he uncovered never-before-seen war footage of the unit in action. "These guys are heroes in Brazil," Castro says, "but people outside South America are always amazed that Brazil was even in the war. I read *Senta a Pua* when I was 15 years old. So while I was influenced by *Star Wars,* I knew theirs was the first story I'd tell." Opens April 20 at Two Boots Pioneer Theater. (155 East 3rd Street; 212-254-3300.) B.K.

Theatres; CC Sutton; Loews 84th Street; Bay Plaza; Whitestone; Pavilion; UA Movies at Sheepshead Bay; Cinemart; UA Astoria; UA Crossbay II; UA Movieworld; Atrium.

Keep the River on Your Right

A documentary charting the return of 80-year-old Tobias Schneebaum to the Peruvian tribe for which he deserted a New York artist's life in 1954. Directed by brother and sister David and Laurie Shapiro. (1 hr. 50 mins.; R) • Quad Cinema.

Kingdom Come

A comedy about the many strands of the Slocumb family who come together at a funeral that threatens to tear them apart. Starring LL Cool J, Vivica Fox, and Jada Pinkett Smith in Doug McHenry's (*Jason's Lyric*) second film. (1 hr. 35 mins; PG) • UA Union Square; Clearview's Chelsea West; AMC Empire 25 Theatres; Clearview's First & 62nd St.; Clearview's Park and 86th St.; Clearview's 62nd and Broadway; Clearview's Olympia; Magic Johnson Harlem USA; Nova; Bay Plaza; Concourse Plaza; Whitestone; CO Kings Plaza; Kent Triplex; Linden Boulevard Multiplex; Canarsie; UA Crossbay; UA Movies at Staten Island.

Lakeboat

Joe Mantegna directs a David Mamet script (with Charles Durning, Peter Falk, and Denis Leary) about male bonding and how sad and funny it can be. (1 hr. 38 mins; R) • The Screening Room; Kew Gardens Cinemas.

★ Memento

Christopher Nolan's low-budget noir stars Guy Pearce as a man seeking out his wife's murderer. The story is worked out in roughly reverse chronological order, and Nolan has a fondness for existential dread that may go over better with noir-soaked movie critics. But it's an intriguing movie anyway. (Rainer; 3/26/01) (2 hrs.; R) • CC Angelika Film Center; Loews 19th St. East; Loews Kips Bay Theatre; Loews 42nd Street E Walk; Clearview's First & 62nd St.; Clearview's Metro Cinema; Lincoln Plaza Cinemas; bam Rose Cinemas; Kaufman Astoria Cinema; Kew Gardens Cinemas.

The Mexican

Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts star in this lackadaisical action comedy about a feckless bagman for the mob and his errant girlfriend. (Rainer, 3/12/01) (2 hrs.; R) • Loews State; CO Fresh Meadows; Kaufman Astoria Cinema.

Nico & Dani

Sexual-coming-of-age tale about two Spanish teenagers. Starring Fernando Ramallo and Jordi Vilches. (1 hr. 30 mins.; NR) • Cinema Village.

★ O Brother, Where Art Thou?

Set in Depression-era Mississippi, this Coen-brothers movie actually takes place in their usual rarefied and icy-hot postmodern Nowheresville. George Clooney, John Turturro, and Tim Blake Nelson star as escaped convicts. (1 hr. 46 mins.; PG-13) • UA Union Square; AMC Empire 25 Theatres.

On Hostile Ground

Liz Mermin and Jenny Raskin's poignant documentary about abortion. (1 hr. 13 mins; NR) • The Screening Room.

Pokémon 3

More animated antics from those unruly Japanese pocket monsters. Directed by Pokémon veteran Michael Haigney. (1 hr. 40 mins; G) • UA Union Square; CC Murray Hill Cinemas; Clearview's Chelsea; AMC Empire 25 Theatres; Loews Orpheum 7; Loews 84th Street; Magic Johnson Harlem USA; Bay Plaza; Concourse Plaza; Whitestone; CO Alpine; CO Kings Plaza; Kent Triplex; Linden Boulevard Multiplex; Pavilion; UA Marboro; Centre Sunnyside; Main Street Cinemas; UA Astoria; UA Crossbay; UA Movieworld; Atrium; UA Movies at Staten Island.

★ Quills

Geoffrey Rush plays Sade, imprisoned in the Charenton asylum, and he's a degenerate fop who smuggles scurrilous screeds out into the world with the help of a chambermaid (a radiant Kate Winslet) and gets obliterated for his troubles. (Rainer; 11/27/00) (2 hrs. 10 mins.; R) • CC Village East.

Say It Isn't So

Antic Farrelly-brothers-produced comedy starring Chris Klein as a feckless suitor in love with someone who may be his sister, played aptly by Heather Graham. Directorial debut of J. B. Rogers. (1 hr. 33 mins.; R) • Battery Park City Cinema.

See Spot Run

First-time feature from TV director John Whitesell (*A Different World, Jack and Jill*) about a highly intelligent FBI dog and his dim-witted master, convincingly portrayed by David Arquette. (1 hr. 35 mins.; PG) • Battery Park City Cinema; AMC Empire 25 Theatres; CO Alpine; Linden Boulevard Multiplex; CO Fresh Meadows; Kaufman Astoria Cinema; Kew Gardens Cinemas; North Shore Towers; UA Crossbay II; Atrium.

Shadow Magic

A comedy set in 1902 Beijing about the first Chinese movie house and a town that becomes obsessed. Written and directed by Ann Hu. (1 hr. 19 mins.; PG) • Quad Cinema; CC Sutton.

Smell of Camphor, Fragrance of Jasmine

A neurotic Iranian filmmaker's contemplations of death prompt him to film his own funeral. Starring and directed by Bahman Farjami. (1 hr. 33 mins; NR) • Lincoln Plaza Cinemas.

Someone Like You

Ashley Judd and Hugh Jackman play unlikely roommates-cum-lovers in this romantic comedy from director Tony Goldwyn (*A Walk on the Moon*). Also starring Greg Kinnear and Marisa Tomei. (1 hr. 34 mins.; PG-13) • UA Union Square; CC Murray Hill Cinemas; AMC Empire 25 Theatres; Clearview's First & 62nd St.; CO Alpine; Pavilion; UA Movies at Sheepshead Bay; Centre Sunnyside; UA Astoria; UA Crossbay II; UA Movies at Bayside; Atrium; UA Movies at Staten Island; YWCA Cine-Club.

Spy Kids

Robert Rodriguez wrote and directed this tale of two children (Alexa Vega, Daryl Sabara) who must rescue their square-seeming secret-agent parents (Antonio Banderas, Carla Gugino). (1 hr. 28 mins.; PG) • UA Union Square; Clearview's Chelsea; Loews Kips Bay Theatre; CC Sutton; Loews 42nd Street E Walk; Magic Johnson Harlem USA; New Coliseum; Nova; Sony Lincoln Square; Bay Plaza; Concourse Plaza; Whitestone; CO Alpine; CO Kings Plaza; Kent Triplex; Linden Boulevard Multiplex; Pavilion; Ridgewood; UA Movies at Sheepshead Bay; Canarsie; Centre Sunnyside; Jackson Triplex; Kaufman Astoria Cinema; Main Street Cinemas; UA Crossbay II; UA Movieworld; Atrium; UA Hylan Plaza; UA Movies at Staten Island.

States of Control

A frustrated writer (Jennifer Van Dyck) commits random terror in order to reinvigorate her life. Directed by Zack Winestine. (1 hr. 24 mins; NR) • Two Boots Pioneer Theater.

The Tailor of Panama

John Boorman's movie of the John Le Carré best-seller is a freewheeling jape that turns into a pitch-black burlesque with surprising depths of feeling. Starring Geoffrey Rush, Pierce Brosnan, and Jamie Lee Curtis. (Rainer; 4/2/01) (1 hr. 49 mins; R) • UA Union Square; Clearview's Chelsea; Loews Kips Bay Theatre; AMC Empire 25 Theatres; Clearview's Beekman; Sony Lincoln Square; Pavilion; Kaufman Astoria Cinema.

Tomcats

The last single man standing may win a substantial cash bet in director Gregory Poirer's debut film but will surely lose Shannon Elizabeth. (1 hr. 32 mins; R) • UA Union Square; Loews 42nd Street E Walk; Loews 84th Street; Bay Plaza; UA Marboro; UA Movies at Sheepshead Bay; Kaufman Astoria Cinema; UA Crossbay II; Atrium; UA Movies at Staten Island.

★ Traffic
Steven Soderbergh directed this uneven mélange—a movie about drug trafficking in which several seemingly disparate stories come together in a sweeping vision of corruption and redemption. (Rainer; 1/2/01) (2 hrs. 15 mins.; R) • Battery Park City Cinema; Loews Village; Clearview's Chelsea; Loews Kips Bay Theatre; Loews Astor Plaza; Loews 72nd St. East; Loews Orpheum 7; Sony Lincoln Square; Pavilion; CO Fresh Meadows; Kaufman Astoria Cinema; Atrium.

The Widow of St. Pierre
Impressive to look at, but the performers, especially Binoche, are too freeze-dried for all the supposed passion on display. (Rainer; 3/5/01) (1 hr. 37 mins.; R) • Paris Theatre; Kew Gardens Cinemas.

Yi Yi
Edward Yang's complicated tale examining the relationship between a mother and son, and the nature of family in general. (2 hrs. 53 mins.; NR) • Cinema Village.

★ You Can Count On Me
Writer-director Kenneth Lonergan's wonderfully small-scale movie stars Mark Ruffalo and Laura Linney as reunited brother and sister, and theirs is one of the most convincing portrayals of family connection I've ever seen. (Rainer; 10/23/00) (1 hr. 51 mins.; R) • CC Village East.

Manhattan

Below 14th Street

Battery Park City Cinema
102 North End Ave. (212-945-3418) • The Brothers; Chocolat; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Down to Earth; Enemy at the Gates; Exit Wounds; 15 Minutes; Hannibal; Heartbreakers; In the Mood for Love; Pollock; Say It Isn't So; See Spot Run; Traffic.

CC Angelika Film Center
18 W. Houston St. (212-995-2000) • Chocolat; The Circle; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Memento; Pollock.

CC Village East
189 Second Ave. (212-529-6799) • Beautiful Creatures; Billy Elliot; The Dish; In the Mood for Love; Joe Dirt; Just Visiting; Quills; You Can Count On Me.

Cinema Village
22 E. 12th St. (212-924-3363) • American Desi; Nico & Dani; Yi Yi.

Clearview's Waverly
323 Sixth Ave. (212-777-FILM#603) • Heartbreakers; Joe Dirt.

Film Forum
209 W. Houston St. (212-727-8110) • Chopper. (See also "Museums, Societies, Etc.")

Loews Village
66 Third Ave. (212-50-LOEWS#952) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; Bridget Jones's Diary; Traffic.

Quad Cinema
34 W. 13th St. (212-255-8800) • Before Night Falls; Enemy at the Gates; Keep the River on Your Right; Shadow Magic.

The Screening Room
54 Varick St. (212-334-2100) • Lakeboat; On Hostile Ground; Too Much Sleep.

UA Union Square
13th St. and Broadway (212-253-2225) • Amores Perros; 15 Minutes; Heartbreakers; Into the Arms of Strangers; Josie and the Pussycats; Kingdom Come; O Brother, Where Art Thou?; Pokemon 3; Someone Like You; Spy Kids; The Tailor of Panama; Tomcats.

14th–41st Streets

CC Murray Hill Cinemas
160 E. 34th St. (212-689-6548) • Blow; Pokemon 3; Someone Like You.

Clearview's Chelsea
260 W. 23rd St. (212-777-FILM#597) • Before Night Falls; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Heartbreakers; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Just Visiting; Pokemon 3; Pollock; Spy Kids; The Tailor of Panama; Traffic.

Clearview's Chelsea West
333 W. 23rd St. (212-777-FILM#614) • Kingdom Come.

Loews 19th St. East
890 Broadway, at 19th St. (212-50-LOEWS#858) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; Bridget Jones's Diary; The Brothers; Memento.

Loews Kips Bay Theatre
570 Second Ave. (212-505-6397#558) • Along Came a Spider; Bridget Jones's Diary; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Enemy at the Gates; Heartbreakers; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Just Visiting; Memento; Spy Kids; The Tailor of Panama; Traffic.

42nd–60th Streets

AMC Empire 25 Theatres
234 W. 42nd St. (212-398-3939) • Akira; Amores Perros; Blow; The Brothers; Cast Away; Chocolat; The Dish; Enemy at the Gates; Heartbreakers; Joe Dirt; Just Visiting; Kingdom Come; O Brother, Where Art Thou?; Pokemon 3; Pollock; See Spot Run; Someone Like You; The Tailor of Panama.

CC Cinemas 1, 2, 3
1001 Third Ave., at 60th St. (212-753-6022) • Blow; Bridget Jones's Diary.

CC Eastside Playhouse
919 Third Ave., bet. 55th and 56th Sts. (212-755-3020) • Amores Perros.

CC Sutton
205 E. 57th St. (212-759-1411) • Just Visiting; Shadow Magic; Spy Kids.

Clearview's 59th Street East
239 E. 59th St. (212-777-FILM#615) • The Brothers.

Clearview's Ziegfeld
141 W. 54th St. (212-777-FILM#602) • Along Came a Spider.

Loews 42nd Street E Walk
42nd St. at Eighth Ave. (212-50-LOEWS#572) • Along Came a Spider; Bridget Jones's Diary; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Exit Wounds; Josie and the Pussycats; Memento; Spy Kids; Tomcats.

Loews Astor Plaza
44th St. bet. Broadway and Eighth Ave. (212-50-LOEWS#699) • Traffic.

Loews Coronet
993 Third Ave., bet. 59th and 60th Sts. (212-505-CINE#608) • Enemy at the Gates.

Loews State
1540 Broadway, bet. 45th and 46th Sts. (212-50-LOEWS#901) • The Day I Became A Woman; 15 Minutes; Gladiator; Hannibal; The Mexican.

Paris Theatre
4 W. 58th St. (212-688-3800) • The Widow of St. Pierre.

61st Street and Above, East Side

CC 86th St. East
210 E. 86th St. (212-777-FILM#763) • Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Just Visiting; Memento; Someone Like You; Spy Kids.

Clearview's Beekman
1254 Second Ave., bet. 65th and 66th Sts. (212-777-FILM#606) • The Tailor of Panama.

Clearview's First & 62nd St.
400 E. 62nd St. (212-777-FILM#957) • Heartbreakers; Josie and the Pussycats; Kingdom Come; Memento; Pollock; Someone Like You.

Clearview's Park and 86th St.
125 E. 86th St. (212-777-FILM#604) • Heartbreakers; Kingdom Come.

Loews 72nd St. East
1230 Third Ave., bet. 71st and 72nd Sts. (212-50-LOEWS#704) • Traffic.

Loews New York Twin
1271 Second Ave., bet. 66th and

Revival

Requiem for an Oscar

There are many ways to spell "boffo box office," but *d-o-u-b-l-e p-r-o-n-g-e-d d-i-l-d-o* isn't one of them. Darren Aronofsky (pictured, with Ellen Burstyn) knows this better than most—the inclusion of a quivering joy toy in last year's brilliant melodrama **Requiem for a Dream** led the MPAA to slap the film with an NC-17 rating (Artisan consequently released the film unrated). Anyone with a taste for macabre psychedelia (*growling refrigerators!*) or blackly camp dialogue (*"I'm gonna be on television!"*) shouldn't miss the BAM Rose Cinemas presentation of the wacked-out melodrama on April 18. Arguably the best film released last year, *Requiem* expertly weaves together four stories about addiction and self-delusion, culminating in a montage sequence showcasing the characters' ultimate loss of control. You've heard it's disturbing, but it's also grotesquely *funny*. Aronofsky himself will be on hand for a Q&A session. We dare you to ask how he feels about Ellen Burstyn's losing her Oscar to spunky Julia Roberts and those kooky crop-tops. DEREK DE KOFF

Photograph by John Baer.

67th Sts. (212-50-LOEWS#698) • Along Carne a Spider.

Loews Orpheum 7
1538 Third Ave., at 86th St. (212-50-LOEWS#964) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; Bridget Jones's Diary; The Brothers; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Pokemon 3; Traffic.

UA East
1629 First Ave., at 85th St. (212-249-5100) • Amores Perros.

UA Gemini
1210 Second Ave., at 64th St. (212-832-1670) • Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Joe Dirt.

61st Street and Above, West Side

Clearview's 62nd and Broadway
1871 Broadway, at 62nd St. (212-777-FILM#864) • Kingdom Come.

Clearview's Metro Cinema
2626 Broadway, bet. 99th and 100th Sts. (212-777-FILM#609) • Along Came a Spider; Memento.

Clearview's Olympia
2770 Broadway, bet. 106th and 107th Sts. (212-777-FILM#613) • Bridget Jones's Diary; Kingdom Come.

Lincoln Plaza Cinemas
30 Lincoln Plaza, on Broadway bet. 62nd and 63rd Sts. (212-757-2280) • Amores Perros; The Circle; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Memento; Pollock; Smell of Camphor, Fragrance of Jasmine.

Loews 84th Street
2310 Broadway, at 84th St. (212-50-LOEWS#701) • The Brothers; Exit Wounds; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Just Visiting; Pokemon 3; Tomcats.

Magic Johnson Harlem USA
300 W. 125th St. (212-665-8733) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; The Brothers; Exit Wounds; Kingdom Come; Pokemon 3; Spy Kids.

New Coliseum
701 W. 181st St. (212-740-1545) • Amores Perros; Enemy at the Gates; Spy Kids.

Opening

A Great Day in Harlem

Before embarking on an eight-month journey across the United States, the seventh **African Film Festival** will open at the Magic Johnson Theaters in Harlem. This year's festival has three parts: "Video Awudjo," a series of postmodern films shot on video, currently the rage in Africa; "Emerging Market," a group of feature films from new directors; and "Then and Now," a tribute to Raoul Peck and Ousmane Sembene. "The satisfaction I get from African cinema," the red-hot Sembene, currently enjoying a retrospective at the Film Forum and the March opening of *Faat-Kine* (pictured), says, "is that nobody speaks for us. Africans speak for themselves." Both Mr. Peck's and Mr. Sembene's first and last movies will be shown back-to-back after an introduction from the African giants. "My purpose is to bring African filmmakers together," Sembene says. "African cinema hasn't found its place yet in the world, but we are creating work to endure." Begins April 20. (For complete listings, see "Museums, Societies, Etc.")

Nova
3589 Broadway, bet. 147th and 148th Sts. (212-862-5728) • Amores Perros; Kingdom Come; Spy Kids.

Sony Lincoln Square
1998 Broadway, at 68th St. (212-50-LOEWS#638) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; Bridget Jones's Diary; The Dish; Enemy at the Gates; Heartbreakers; Spy Kids; The Tailor of Panama; Traffic.

Bronx

Bay Plaza
2210 Bartow Ave., behind Bay Plaza Mall (718-777-FILM#833) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; The Brothers; Exit Wounds; Heartbreakers; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Just Visiting; Kingdom Come; Pokemon 3; Spy Kids; Tomcats.

Concourse Plaza
214 E. 161th St. (718-588-8800) • Along Came a Spider; The Brothers; Exit Wounds; Josie and the Pussycats; Kingdom Come; Pokemon 3; Spy Kids.

Whitestone
2505 Bruckner Blvd., at Hutchinson River Pkwy. (718-409-9030) • Along Came a Spider; Amores Perros; Blow; Bridget Jones's Diary; The Brothers; Exit Wounds; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Just Visiting; Kingdom Come; Pokemon 3; Spy Kids.

Brooklyn

BAM Rose Cinemas
30 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn (718-623-2770) • Amores Perros; Blow; Memento.

Brooklyn Heights
70 Henry St. (718-596-7070) • Enemy at the Gates; O Brother, Where Art Thou?; Snatch.

Clearview's Cobble Hill
265 Court St. (718-596-9113) • Amores Perros; The Dish; Just Visiting; Memento; Pollock; Spy Kids.

CO Alpine
6817 Fifth Ave., at 69th St. (718-777-FILM#580) • Blow; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Enemy at the Gates; Exit Wounds; Heartbreakers; Pokemon 3; See Spot Run; Someone Like You; Spy Kids.

CO Fortway
6720 Ft. Hamilton Pkwy., at 68th St. (718-777-FILM#578) • Along Came a Spider; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Just Visiting; Kingdom Come; Tomcats.

CO Kings Plaza
5201 Kings Plaza; Flatbush Ave. at Ave. U (718-777-FILM#579) • Along Came a Spider; The Brothers; Exit Wounds; Kingdom Come; Pokemon 3; Spy Kids.

Kent Triplex
Coney Island Ave. at Ave. H (718-338-3371) • Kingdom Come; Pokemon 3; Spy Kids.

Linden Boulevard Multiplex
Linden Blvd. and Eldert Lane (718-277-0303) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; The Brothers; Exit Wounds; Josie and the Pussycats; Kingdom Come; Pokemon 3; See Spot Run; Spy Kids.

Pavilion
188 Prospect Park West (718-369-0838) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; Bridget Jones's Diary; Enemy at the Gates; Heartbreakers; Josie and the Pussycats; Just Visiting; Pokemon 3; Someone Like You; Spy Kids; The Tailor of Panama; Traffic.

Ridgewood
55-27 Myrtle Ave., at Putnam Ave. (718-821-5993) • Along Came a Spider; Amores Perros; Spy Kids.

UA Marboro
6817 Bay Pkwy., at 69th St. (718-232-4000) • Enemy at the Gates; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Pokemon 3; Tomcats.

UA Movies at Sheepshead Bay
3907 Shore Pkwy., off Exit 9 at Belt Pkwy. (718-615-1700) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; Bridget Jones's Diary; Exit Wounds; Heartbreakers; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Just Visiting; Someone Like You; Spy Kids; Tomcats.

Queens

Canarsie
9310 Ave. L, at E. 93rd St. (718-251-0700) • The Brothers; Kingdom Come; Spy Kids.

Centre Sunnyside
42-17 Queens Blvd. (718-361-6869) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; Josie and the Pussycats; Pokemon 3; Someone Like You; Spy Kids.

Cinemart
106-03 Metropolitan Ave., at 72nd Rd., Forest Hills (718-261-2244) • Along Came a Spider; Chocolat; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Heartbreakers; Just Visiting.

CO Cinema City
183-15 Horace Harding Expy., at 183rd St., Fresh Meadows (718-777-FILM#592) • Cast Away; Monkeybone; Recess: School's Out; Save the Last Dance; Sweet November; 3000 Miles to Graceland; The Wedding Planner.

CO Fresh Meadows
Eastbound Service Rd. at 190th St. (718-777-FILM#619) • Chocolat; Down to Earth; Hannibal; The Mexican; See Spot Run; Traffic.

College Point Multiplex
28-55 Ulmer St., Whitestone (718-886-4900) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; Bridget Jones's Diary; The Brothers; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Enemy at the Gates; Exit Wounds; Heartbreakers; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Just Visiting; Kingdom Come; Pokemon 3; Spy Kids.

Jackson Triplex
82nd St. at Roosevelt Ave. (718-478-6777) • The Brothers; Enemy at the Gates; Spy Kids.

Kaufman Astoria Cinema
38th St. at 35th Ave. (-718-786-2020) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; The Brothers; Chocolat; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Enemy at the Gates; Hannibal; Memento; The Mexican; See Spot Run; Spy Kids; The Tailor of Panama; Tomcats; Traffic.

Kew Gardens Cinemas
81-05 Lefferts Blvd. (718-441-9835) • Amores Perros; The Dish; Lakeboat; Memento; Pollock; See Spot Run; The Widow of St. Pierre.

Main Street Cinemas
72-66 Main St. (718-263-4828) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; Heartbreakers; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Pokemon 3; Spy Kids.

North Shore Towers
27-10 Grand Central Pkwy., Floral Park (718-229-7702) • Heartbreakers; Left Luggage; Pollock; See Spot Run.

Photograph courtesy of New Yorker Films.

Plaza
103–14 Roosevelt Ave., at 103rd St., Corona (718-639-0012) • Along Came a Spider; Amores Perros.

UA Astoria
28–60 Steinway St. (718-726-1279) • Exit Wounds; 15 Minutes; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Just Visiting; Pokemon 3; Someone Like You.

UA Brandon Cinema
70–20 Austin St., Forest Hills (718-544-1020) • Kingdom Come; The Tailor of Panama.

UA Crossbay
94-11 Rockaway Blvd., at Woodhaven Blvd., Ozone Park (718-848-1738) • Along Came a Spider; The Brothers; Kingdom Come; Pokemon 3.

UA Crossbay II
92-10 Rockaway Blvd., at 93rd St., Ozone Park (718-641-5330) • Blow; Exit Wounds; Heartbreakers; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Just Visiting; See Spot Run; Someone Like You; Spy Kids; Tomcats.

UA Midway
108-22 Queens Blvd., at 71st Ave., Forest Hills (718-544-5545) • Blow; Bridget Jones's Diary; Enemy at the Gates; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Pokemon 3; Someone Like You; Spy Kids; Tomcats; Traffic.

UA Movies at Bayside
38-39 Bell Blvd., at 39th Ave. (718-225-7711) • Along Came a Spider; Bridget Jones's Diary; Josie and the Pussycats; Someone Like You.

UA Movieworld
242-02 61st Ave., off Exit 31, Douglaston (718-423-7200) • Blow; Bridget Jones's Diary; Enemy at the Gates; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Just Visiting; Pokemon 3; Spy Kids.

Staten Island

Atrium
680 Arthur Kill Rd., nr. Richmond Ave., Eltingville (718-317-8300) • Along Came a Spider; Bridget Jones's Diary; Enemy at the Gates; Heartbreakers; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Just Visiting; Pokemon 3; See Spot Run; Someone Like You; Spy Kids; Tomcats; Traffic.

UA Hylan Plaza
107 Mill Rd., at Hylan Blvd., New Dorp (718-351-0805) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Spy Kids.

UA Movies at Staten Island
141 E. Service Rd., at Victory Blvd., Travis (718-983-9600) • Along Came a Spider; Blow; Bridget Jones's Diary; Exit Wounds; Heartbreakers; Joe Dirt; Josie and the Pussycats; Kingdom Come; Pokemon 3; Someone Like You; Spy Kids; Tomcats.

Museums, Societies, Etc.

Anthology Film Archives
32 Second Ave. (212-505-5110); $8. • "Two Taiwanese Masters: The Cinema of Lee Hsing and Wang T'ung." 4/20: *Execution in Autumn* (1972); *Strawman* (1987). 4/21: *Our Neighbor* (1963); *If I Were Real* (1981); *Oyster Girl* (1964); *Portrait of a Fanatic* (1982). 4/22: *Beautiful Duckling* (1964); *A Flower in the Rainy Night* (1983); *The Silent Wife* (1965); *Spring Daddy* (1985). 4/24: *The Road* (1967); *Banana Paradise* (1989).

Film Forum
209 W. Houston St. (212-727-8110); $9. • "Sembene." 4/17: *Black Girl* (1966). 4/18-20: *Mandabi* (1968); *Borom Sarret* (1964). 4/21-23: *Ceddo* (1977).

Film Society of Lincoln Center
65 W. 65th St., plaza level (212-875-5600); $9. • "Contemporary Films From Britain." 4/17: *Gangster No. 1* (2000); *There's Only One Jimmy Grimble* (2000); *House!* (2000). 4/18: *Very Annie Mary* (2000). 4/19: *Dead Babies* (2000); *The Criminal* (1999). 4/20: *Gregory's Two Girls* (1999); *This Year's Love* (1999).

Trailers

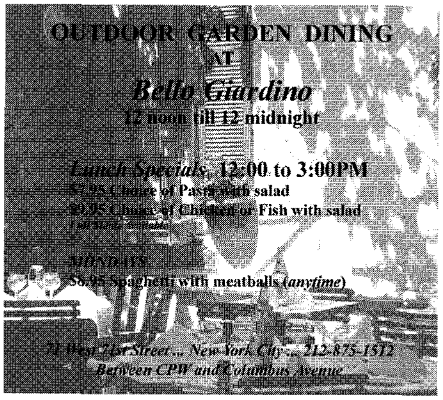
LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD Steven Zaillian, the screenwriter behind *Schindler's List,* has agreed to adapt "The Return of Superfly," an August 2000 *New York* Magazine article by contributing editor **Mark Jacobson;** Universal and Imagine Entertainment bought the story, which follows the highs and lows of seventies Harlem heroin kingpin Frank Lucas.

JUST ONE FRIDA Miramax is pushing ahead with its production of *Frida,* a film based on the life of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, and there's less competition now that work on United Artists' *The Two Fridas* (originally starring **Jennifer Lopez**) has stalled; **Salma Hayek** (pictured) is playing the famous artist, with **Ashley Judd** and **Geoffrey Rush** filling out the cast and **Antonio Banderas** in talks; **Julie Taymor** (*Titus*) directs for Hayek's Ventanarosa Productions.

HE TALK PRETTY Writer and NPR favorite **David Sedaris** has sold the film rights to his most recent collection of essays, *Me Talk Pretty One Day,* to *The Joy Luck Club* director **Wayne Wang**; Wang, along with Peter Newman and Greg Johnson, will produce the adaptation of Sedaris's best-selling memoirs, in which he chronicles his life experiences as an expat New Yorker in Paris.

BATTLEFIELD MANHATTAN John Travolta (pictured) is in talks to star in Disney's *Enchanted,* as a married New Yorker who wins the affection of an animated princess; **Jon Turteltaub** (*While You Were Sleeping*) will direct the half-animated, half-live-action film, in which a beautiful girl from an imaginary kingdom is banished to modern-day New York after displeasing a nemesis; **Barry Sonnenfeld** and **Barry Josephson** will produce.

SARA CARDACE



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Photographs by Robin Platzer Twin Images.

Theat

Edited by Logan Hill

Broadway

Previews and Openings

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
A new musical based on the novel. $35–$85. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. In previews for a 4/26 opening. • Minskoff Theatre, 200 W. 45th St. (212-307-4100).

Blast!
Feeling horny? $20–$80. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. In previews for a 4/17 opening. Through 6/10. • Broadway Theatre, Broadway at 53rd St. (212-239-6200).

42nd Street
Come and meet those dancin' feet. This revival of the Al Dubin and Harry Warren musical is directed by Mark Bramble with choreography by Randy Skinner and features Michael Cumpsty, Christine Ebersole, David Elder, Jonathan Freeman, Kate Levering, and Mary Testa. $20–$90. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. In previews for a 5/2 opening. • Ford Center for the Performing Arts, 213 W. 42nd St. (212-307-4100).

The Gathering
Hal Linden (*The Rothschilds, I'm Not Rappaport*) stars as a Holocaust survivor in Arje Shaw's new political drama. $30–$65. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. In previews for a 4/25 opening. • Cort Theatre, 138 W. 48th St. (212-239-6200).

George Gershwin Alone
A new solo play written and performed by Hershey Felder, featuring the music and lyrics of George and Ira Gershwin. $65. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. Previews begin 4/17 for a 4/30 opening. • Helen Hayes Theatre, 240 W. 44th St. (212-239-6200).

King Hedley II
August Wilson tackles 1985 Pittsburgh with his longtime collaborator and director Marion McClinton, *Kiss Me Kate* vet Brian Stokes Mitchell, Charles Brown, Viola Davis, Lou Myers, Monté Russell, and Leslie Uggams. $25–$70. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. In previews for a 4/29 opening. • Virginia Theatre, 245 W. 52nd St. (212-239-6200).

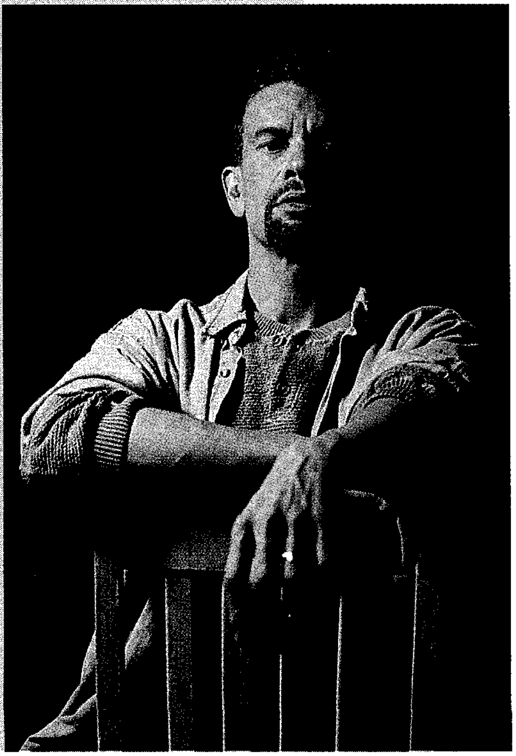
The Producers
Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick produce the ultimate "surefire flop," *Springtime for Hitler,* in Mel Brooks's new musical and surefire hit, based on the Oscar-winning 1968 film. Directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman. $30–$90. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 2, Sun. at 7:30. In previews for a 4/19 opening. • St. James Theatre, 246 W. 44th St. (212-239-6200).

Previews

King-maker

Riding on the goodwill generated by the stunning revival of *Jitney,* the latest installment in August Wilson's epic attempt to write one play for every decade of the twentieth century has just arrived on Broadway. **King Hedley II,** Wilson's complex take on 1985 Pittsburgh, was well received during its out-of-town tryout, where all eyes were on Brian Stokes Mitchell (pictured), the man in the title role. The actor last mugged his way to a Tony as Fred/Petruchio in *Kiss Me, Kate,* so playing an often furious ex-murderer whom he describes as "a kingly spirit in a time and place where that makes for a lot of problems" will be something of a departure. "*Kiss Me, Kate* has its place—sometimes, people want to come to the theater and forget about life," says Stokes Mitchell. "But musical comedies are fast food—they're McDonald's hamburgers. This play is a twelve-course meal." The actor, who received a Tony nomination for his role as the radical Coalhouse Walker Jr. in *Ragtime,* says he's anxious to return to serious material. "I actually feel more comfortable in this play than in musical comedies," he explains. "Most of my roles have been in very dark musicals: *Jelly's Last Jam, Ragtime, Kiss of the Spider Woman*—I have an affinity for those roles." And though many are curious about Stokes Mitchell's dramatic chops, he says he couldn't be in better hands. "Wilson's language is so lyrical, this almost feels like a musical," he says, dismissing the idea. "His words have a rhythm and a music that you don't find elsewhere." In previews for an April 29 opening. (See "Off Broadway.")

L.H.



Photograph by Jean-Marie Guyaux.

Now Playing

Aida
The epic musical about the love affair between a Nubian slave and a cute Egyptian. $25–$70. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Palace Theatre, 1554 Broadway, at 47th St. (212-307-4747).

Annie Get Your Gun
Reba McEntire plays Annie Oakley, the sharp-tongued, sharpshootin' gal from Cincinnati who eclipses her lover in Buffalo Bill's traveling Wild West Show. Irving Berlin did the lyrics and score; Peter Stone updated the book. $85. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Marquis Theatre, 1535 Broadway, bet. 45th and 46th Sts. (212-307-4100).

Beauty and the Beast
Disney's beast is back (no, not the mouse). $25–$85. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 1 and 6:30. • Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, 205 W. 46th St. (212-307-4747).

Bells Are Ringing
Faith Prince and Mark Kudisch star in the first Broadway revival of this 1956 musical comedy about a telephone operator who falls in love with a playwright. $50–$85. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Plymouth Theatre, 236 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

Cabaret
The Roundabout is to be roundly applauded for recreating Sam Mendes's 1993 London production, even if with some diminishment. This revival has enough to satisfy all but the most fastidious. (Simon: 3/30/98.) Now starring Gina Gershon, Matthew Greer, and Matt McGrath (*Hedwig*). $25–$90. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 2 and 7. Opened: 3/19/98. • Studio 54, 254 W. 54th St. (212-239-6200).

Chicago
Every bosom, pelvis, and long leg is in business to keep the women in the audience identifying, the men panting. (Simon: 11/30/98.) Belle Calaway stars. $20–$90. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. Opened: 11/14/96. • Shubert, 225 W. 44th St. (212-239-6200).

A Class Act
The Manhattan Theatre Club's successful tribute to the life and music of that singular sensation, *A Chorus Line* lyricist Edward Kleban, transfers to Broadway. $25–$75. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Ambassador Theatre, 219 W. 49th St. (212-239-6200).

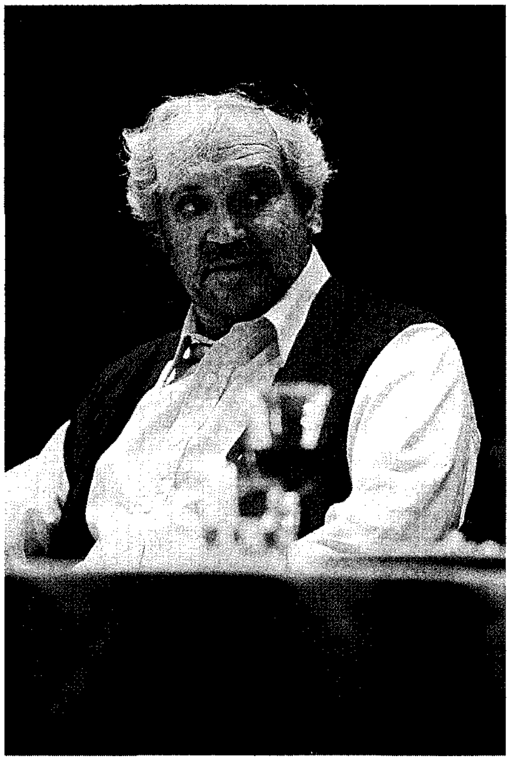
Contact
This is billed as "a dance play by Susan Stroman and John Weidman," with what little there is of a play mostly by Weidman and the variety and plenitude of the dancing all Stroman. Deborah Yates triumphs as the girl in yellow. (Simon: 10/25/99.) $55–$80. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Lincoln Center's Vivian Beaumont Theater, 150 W. 65th St. (212-239-6200).

Design for Living
Alan Cumming and Dominic West seek the love of Jennifer Ehle in Noël Coward's 1932 ménage à trois comedy. $40–$65. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 2. Some early curtains. • American Airlines Theatre, 227 W. 42nd St. (212-719-1300).

The Dinner Party
Neil Simon's unabashedly contrived new comedy. Henry Winkler and John Ritter star. $45–$70.

Hal Comes to 2001

When Arje Shaw's new drama **The Gathering** debuted at the small Playhouse 91 in the spring of 1999, it elicited rave reviews for sensitively dealing with the everyday drama of Holocaust survivors' lives with subtlety—and even a little humor. Now Hal Linden (pictured) moves into the role of a survivor whose son is hired to write speeches for President Reagan, just prior to Dutch's controversial visit to the Bitburg cemetery where members of the SS are buried. When the father finds out, he follows his son to protest the trip. In previews for an April 24 opening. (See "Broadway.")



Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Music Box Theater, 239 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

Follies
Before a wrecking ball transforms a once spectacular New York theater into a parking lot, ghosts and showgirls from decades past reunite for one last time in Sondheim's 1971 musical, directed by Matthew Warchus. Blythe Danner, Gregory Harrison, Judith Ivey, and Treat Williams star. $45–$90. Mon.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2. • Belasco Theatre, 111 W. 44th St. (212-239-6200).

Fosse
A tribute to the late choreographer-director. Ben Vereen and Ann Reinking star, through 4/29. $65–$80. Mon., Tues., and Thurs.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 2 and 7. • Broadhurst Theatre, 235 W. 44th St. (212-239-6200).

The Full Monty
The musical adaptation of the 1997 film about desperate, destitute men who have nothing to lose but their underwear. $31–$86. Mon.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2. • Eugene O'Neill Theatre, 230 W. 49th St. (212-239-6200).

The Invention of Love
Tom Stoppard's play follows an elderly A. E. Housman as he travels back in time and confronts his younger self. $30–$60. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Lyceum Theatre, 149 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

Jane Eyre
The new musical adaptation, with contributions from John Carid, Scott Schwartz, John Napier, and Paul Gordon. $50–$90. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Brooks Atkinson Theatre, 256 W. 47th St. (212-307-4100).

Judgment at Nuremberg
Based on the second trials of the Nazi war criminals, Abby Mann's new drama is directed by John Tillinger (*Comic Potential, The Price, Night Must Fall*). Maximillian Schell and George Grizzard star. $29.50–$75. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Longacre Theatre, 220 W. 48th St. (212-239-6280).

Kiss Me, Kate
With a score jammed with some of the best-known theater songs ever written, it's no wonder each generation has rediscovered this gem since its 1948 Broadway premiere. Now Burke Moses and Marin Mazzie interpret Cole Porter's feuding couple—two actors who play the *Shrew's* Kate and Petruchio in a play-within-the-musical. $26–$86. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Martin Beck Theatre, 302 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

Les Misérables
What a story! Just synopsizing the plot brings tears to the iciest of eyes. (Simon: 3/31/97.) $20–$85. Mon.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2. Opened: 3/12/87. • Imperial Theater, 249 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

The Lion King
This spectacle rightfully earns that most abused of epithets: *magical*. (Simon: 12/1/97.) $20–$90. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 1 and 6:30. Opened: 11/13/97. • New Amsterdam Theater, 214 W. 42nd St. (212-307-4747).

The Music Man
Back in 1957, Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* made a star out of Robert Preston; the current revival should do the same for Rebecca Luker. As Marian Paroo, the librarian of River City, Iowa, Miss Luker gives a performance as detailed, nuanced, and cherishable as ever turned a performer into a legend. (Simon: 5/8/00.) $40–$90. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Neil Simon Theatre, 250 W. 52nd. St. (212-307-4100).

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Terry Kinney takes his Steppenwolf Theater production of Ken Kesey's classic to Broadway. Gary Sinise stars as McMurphy. $30–$75. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2:30, Sun. at 3. • Royale Theatre, 242 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

The Phantom of the Opera
Unlike *Cats*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's other blockbuster refuses to give up the ghost. $20–$85. Mon.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2. Opened: 1/26/88. • Majestic Theater, 247 W. 44th St. (212-239-6200).

Proof
David Auburn's *Proof* is what *Copenhagen* ought to be: a play about scientists whose science matters less than their humanity. Here, those of us who want their dramatic characters to be real people need not feel excluded. The performances are perfect. As for Mary-Louise Parker, her Catherine is a performance of genius. (Simon: 6/5/00.) $24–$69. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Walter Kerr Theatre, 219 W. 48th St. (212-239-6200).

Rent
The late Jonathan Larson's reimagining of Puccini's *La Bohème*. $35–$80. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 2 and 7. • Nederlander Theater, 208 W. 41st St. (212-307-4100).

Riverdance
The Irish return. $25–$80. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 1 and 6:30. • Gershwin Theatre, 222 W. 51st St. (212-307-4100).

The Rocky Horror Show
Christopher Ashley (*Jeffrey*) directs a surreal cast in Frank N. Furter's naughty pad. Lifelong rocker Joan Jett makes her Broadway debut opposite *Rent* star Daphne Rubin-Vega, stage vet Tom Hewitt, comics Dick Cavett and Lea De Laria, and Alice Ripley of *Side Show* (very appropriate). $30–$85. Tues.–Fri. at 8, Sat. at 5 and 9:45, Sun. at 2 and 7. • Circle in the Square, 1633 Broadway (212-239-6200).

The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe
Lily Tomlin returns, along with an astonishing assortment of characters led by Trudy, a homeless lady and "creative consultant to these aliens from outer space" who knows that reality is really just "a collective hunch." The solo show that makes other solo shows look like, well, solo shows, it's written and directed by Jane Wagner, Tomlin's longtime collaborator and partner. $50–$65. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Booth Theatre, 222 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

Seussical
The struggling but optimistic musical. $25–$85. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 1 and 6:30. • Richard Rodgers Theatre, 226 W. 46th St. (212-307-4100).

Stones in His Pockets
Marie Jones's comedy about a small Irish village's encounter with a Hollywood crew. $30–$65. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • The Golden Theatre, 252 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

The Tale of the Allergist's Wife
Who would have expected from a campy downtown playwright a nicely structured, intelligently funny, satirically relevant uptown comedy? In Charles Busch's new play, the retired but still overactive allergist Dr. Ira Taub is married to Marjorie, an immobilized nervous wreck since the death of her therapist. If you seek an ideal cast, look no further. Linda Lavin, for whom the admiring Busch wrote Marjorie as, he says, a kind of King Lear, is that and more. (Simon: 3/13/00.) Also starring Tony Roberts and Michele Lee. $30–$70. Mon.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2. • Barrymore Theatre, 243 W. 47th St. (212-239-6200).

Ground Rules

Except where noted, Broadway shows begin at 8 and are dark Monday. Wallet-watchers should keep in mind the TKTS booths, where discount tickets are available (for that day's performance only) to many Broadway and Off Broadway shows. TKTS booths are at Broadway and 47th St. and 2 World Trade Center, mezzanine level; call 212-768-1818 for more info. Involved in a production and want to submit details for a possible listing? Call 212-508-0740.

Off Broadway

Previews and Openings

Dead Eye Boy
Angus MacLachlan's new drama. $35. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 3. In previews for a 4/22 opening. Through 5/5. • MCC Theater, 120 W. 28th St. (212-727-7765).

Eli's Comin'
A musical inspired by the music of Laura Nyro. $15–$49. Mon.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 3. In previews for a 5/3 opening. • Vineyard Theatre, 108 E. 15th St. (212-353-0303).

The Garden of Frau Hess
In 1944 Germany, the wife of a Nazi party leader and

Photograph by Carol Rosegg.

her gardener, a former concentration-camp prisoner, develop a relationship. $40–$45. Previews begin 4/21 for a 4/29 opening. Tues.–Thurs. and Sat. at 8, Sun. at 7, Wed., Sat., and Sun. at 2. • Duke Theater, 229 W. 42nd St. (212-239-6200).

Love, Janis
A new bio-musical based on the book *Love, Janis* by Joplin's sister Laura. $30–$75. Tues.–Sun. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. In previews for a 4/22 opening. • Village Theater, 158 Bleecker St. (212-307-4100).

Madame Melville
Macaulay Culkin rides some flattering raves back to town after a successful London run in Richard Nelson's drama about a student who's hot for teacher (Joely Richardson). $60–$65. Mon.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2. In previews for a 4/23 opening. • Promenade Theatre, 2162 Broadway, at 76th St. (212-239-6200).

The Misanthrope
A new translation of Molière's work by Rod McLucas. $15–$40. Call for schedule. In previews for a 4/20 opening. Through 5/27. • Jean Cocteau Repertory, 330 Bowery (212-677-0060).

Uncle Bob
A dark comedy by Austin Pendleton. $45. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 2 and 7. In previews for a 4/23 opening • Soho Playhouse, 15 Vandam St. (212-239-6200).

Now Playing

American Rhapsody
A new musical revue of Gershwin's works. $40–$55. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 7:30, Wed., Sat., and Sun. at 2:30. • Triad Theatre, 158 W. 72nd St. (212-239-6200).

Bat Boy: The Musical
Bold-faced headlines in the *Weekly World News* declaring the capture of a live bat-child led to the creation of this high-flying musical. $20–$55. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 3, Sun at 7:30. • Union Square Theatre, 100 E. 17th St. (212-307-4100).

Blue Man Group: Tubes
Smart silliness. $45–$55. Tues.–Thurs. at 8, Fri. at 7 and 10, Sat. at 4, 7, and 10, Sun. at 4 and 7. Opened: 11/17/91. • Astor Place Theatre, 434 Lafayette St. (212-254-4370).

Bobbi Boland
A new play about a Miss Florida vet. $30–$40. Wed.–Mon. at 8, Sat. at 3, Sun. at 7. • Arclight Theatre, 152 W. 71st St. (212-279-4200).

The Book of Liz
In this new play from David and Amy Sedaris, an unappreciated nun with a cheeseball fetish takes a road trip. $35. Mon.–Fri. at 8, Sat. at 7 and 10. Through 5/20. • Greenwich House Theatre, 27 Barrow St. (212-239-6200).

Boy Gets Girl
A strange tale of stalking in the city by controversial playwright Rebecca Gilman (*Spinning Into Butter*). $55. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 2:30, Sun. at 7. • MTC Stage 1 at City Center, 131 W. 55th St. (212-581-1212).

Code of the West
Mark R. Giesser wrote and directs this comedy about Joshua A. Norton, who proclaimed himself Emperor of the United States in 1859 San Francisco. Through 4/29. $40. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • McGinn/Cazale Theater, 2162 Broadway (212-279-4200).

Crimes of the Heart
The first major revival of Beth Henley's play in two decades is directed by Garry Hynes. $35–$50. Tues., Thurs.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. Through 5/14. • Second Stage Theatre, 307 W. 43rd St. (212-246-4422).

De La Guarda
A show that's part carnival, part rock concert, and almost entirely airborne. $37.50–$45. Tues.–Fri. at 8, Fri. at 10:30, Sat. at 7 and 10, Sun. at 7. • Daryl Roth Theatre, 20 Union Square East, at 15th St. (212-239-6200).

Dinner With Friends
Karen and Gabe, international food writers, are giving a dinner for their friends Beth and Tom, which Tom doesn't attend. It emerges from the heartbroken Beth that her husband has left her for another woman. There is skillful construction here, as well as keen psychological insight. (Simon: 11/22/99.) Winner of the Pulitzer Prize. $30–$65. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 3, Sun. at 7:30. • Variety Arts Theatre, 110 Third Ave. (212-239-6200).

The Donkey Show
A fantastic, loose disco-musical adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Cable sex icon Robin Byrd hosts on Wednesdays. $39. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Fri. and Sat. at 10:30. • El Flamingo, 547 W. 21st St. (212-307-4100).

Downhearted Blues—The Life and Music of Bessie Smith
Tony- and Grammy-winning Jennifer Holliday wrote and stars in this musical one-act. $30. Thurs.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 7. • Chelsea Playhouse, 125 W. 22nd St. (212-561-9553).

Dralion
Cirque du Soleil returns with its latest high-falutin' version of the high-flying circus. $43.75–$85. Tues. and Wed. at 8, Thurs. and Fri. at 5 and 9, Sat. at 4 and 8, Sun. at 1 and 5. Through 6/3. • Liberty State Park, Jersey City (800-678-5440).

Eula Mae's Beauty, Bait, and Tackle
Former rodeo star Eula Mae sets up shop in a small town. $40. Mon.–Sat. at 8. • Jose Quintero Theatre, 534 W. 42nd St. (212-244-7529).

The Fantasticks
The musical perennial. $36.50–$39. Tues.–Fri. at 8, Sat. at 3 and 7, Sun. at 3 and 7:30. Opened: 5/3/60. • Sullivan St. Playhouse, 181 Sullivan St. (212-674-3838).

Forbidden Broadway 2001: A Spoof Odyssey
Gerard Alessandrini's long-running musical spoof. $49.50. Mon. and Wed.–Sat. at 8:15, Sat at 2:30, Sun. at 3:30 and 7:30. Food and drink available, optional. • Stardust Theatre, Broadway at 51st St. (212-239-6200).

Fully Committed
For the price of an entrée, Becky Mode serves up all the splendors and miseries of restaurant life prepared to a fare-thee-well. (Simon: 1/17/00.) $45. Tues.–Fri. at 8, Sat. at 6 and 9, Sun. at 3 and 7. • Cherry Lane Theatre, 38 Commerce St. (212-239-6200).

The Good Thief
Brian d'Arcy James (*The Wild Party*) stars in Conor McPherson's recently extended drama. $25–$45. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 5, Sun. at 4. Through 5/26. • 45 Bleecker, 45 Bleecker St. (212-529-4530).

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
This musical revue is about what, in the context of most contemporary musicals, seems an amusingly quaint subject these days—heterosexual love. $49.50–$55. Mon., Tues., Thurs.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 3 and 7:30. Opened: 8/1/96. • Westside Theatre, 407 W. 43rd St. (212-239-6200).

I Will Bear Witness
This world premiere dramatizes the diaries of Victor Klemperer, a German Jew whose life was spared during Hitler's reign. $15–$25. Call for schedule. • Classic Stage Company, 136 E. 13th St. (212-677-4210).

Lackawanna Blues
Ruben Santiago-Hudson's solo show reimagines 1956 Lackawanna, New York. $45. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 2. • The Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St. (212-239-6200).

Late Nite Catechism
Maripat Donovan as a parochial-school-teaching nun. $40. Fri. and Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 3. • St. Luke's Church, 308 W. 46th St. (212-239-6200).

Let A Hundred Flowers Bloom
David Zellnik's new comedy. $15. Tues.–Sat. at 8. • Center Stage, 48 W. 21st St.

The London Cuckolds
Women are on top in Edward Ravenscroft's comedy. $15. Thurs.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 7. • Blue Heron Arts Center, 123 E. 24th St. (212-290-1595).

Maybe, Baby It's You
Playwright-performers Shari Simpson and Charlie Shanian play eleven couples in this romantic comedy. $40. Wed.–Fri. at 8, Wed. at 2, Sat. at 10. • Theater at St. Luke's, 308 W. 46th St. (212-239-6200).

The Misanthrope
A new translation written and directed by Rod McLucas. $15–$40. Call for schedule. Through 5/27. • Jean Cocteau Repertory, 330 Bowery (212-677-0060).

Mnemonic
This 1999 London Drama Critics Award winner by Theatre de Complicite looks to be an experimental-theater addict's delight. $55. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat and Sun. at 2, Sun at 7. • John Jay College Theater, 899 Tenth Ave., near 58th St. (212-239-6200).

Murdered by the Mob
Interactive off-line entertainment. $55. Fri. at 7:30, Sat. at 7. • Arno Ristorante, 141 W. 38th St. (800-687-3374).

Naked Boys Singing
Just like a musical revue, but without pants. $45–$65. Mon., Wed.–Fri., and Sun. at 8, Sat. at 7 and 10, Sun. at 3. • Actor's Playhouse, 100 Seventh Ave. So. (212-239-6200).

No Niggers, No Jews, No Dogs
John Henry Redwood's new play tells the story of

Previews

Dead Reckoning

Indie-film darling Lili Taylor returns to the stage in Angus MacLachlan's **The Dead Eye Boy**, winner of last year's Rosenthal New Play Prize. Opposite Joseph Murphy (pictured, with Taylor), she'll play one half of a couple of recovering drug addicts who struggle against sundry sorts of abuse—drug, physical, and so on—and try to raise a child with a particular deformity. In previews for an April 22 opening. (See "Off Broadway.")

Photograph by Joan Marcus.

Mattie Cheeks, an African-American woman living in a racially divided town in 1949, who finds an ally in a Jewish scholar. $40–$45. Wed.–Mon. at 8, Sat. at 2:30, Sun. at 3. • Primary Stage, 354 W. 45th St. (212-333-4052).

Now That Communism Is Dead, My Life Feels Empty
Richard Foreman (*Bad Boy Nietzsche*) directs Tony Torn and Jay Smith as two ex-radical hipsters. $15. Tues. and Fri.–Sun. at 8. Through 4/29. • Ontological Theatre at St. Mark's Church, 131 E. 10th St. (212-533-4650).

Nuyorican Voices
Celebrating its thirty-fifth anniversary, Intar offers the premiere of three plays by award-winning Latino playwrights (José Rivera, Edwin Sanchez, and Migdalia Cruz) performed in repertory. $20 for one show, $45 for all three. Tues.–Sun. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 3. Through 4/22. • Intar 53 Theatre, 508 W. 53rd. (212-279-4200).

Once a Man, Twice a Boy
A solo show by Joe Lucas. $30. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. Through 5/13. • Irish Arts Center, 553 W. 51st St. (212-206-1515).

Our Sinatra
A tribute to Ol' Blue Eyes. $50–$100. Mon.–Wed., Fri., and Sun. at 8, Wed. at 2:30, Sun. at 3. • Reprise Room at Dylan's, 245 W. 54th St. (212-239-6200).

P.S. 69
Gay substitute teacher by day, exotic dancer by night. Susan Jeremy stars in this comedy about her experiences in a New York public school. $25. Thurs.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 2. Through 4/29. • Theatre-Studio, Inc., 750 Eighth Ave., at 46th St. (212-279-4200).

Passion Play
A middle-aged couple is seduced by a young woman in this comedy by Peter Nichols. $25–$55. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 3, Sun. at 7:30. • Minetta Lane Theatre, 18 Minetta La. (212-307-4100).

The Peking Acrobats
Unicycles, spinning plates, and more. $10–$25. Call for schedule. Through 4/22. • New Victory Theater, 209 W. 42nd St. (212-239-6200).

Perfect Crime
The long-running thriller. $35. Mon. and Thurs.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3 and 7. Opened: 4/5/87. • Duffy Theatre, 1553 Broadway, at 46th St. (212-695-3401).

The Picture of Dorian Gray
A new adaptation of Oscar Wilde's classic. $35–$40. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 3. Through 5/6. • Irish Repertory Theatre, 132 W. 22nd. St. (212-727-2737).

The Play About the Baby
Tony winner Marian Seldes (*A Delicate Balance*) and Brian Murray star in Edward Albee's first new play since *Three Tall Women,* a mysterious drama about a couple of young new parents whose lives are invaded by an older, less innocent pair. $25–$60. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 3, Sun. at 7. • Century Center for the Performing Arts, 111 E. 15th St. (212-239-6200).

References to Salvador Dalí Make Me Hot
Rosie Perez and the intense John Ortiz star in the New York premiere of José Rivera's imagistic new play. $45. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 2, Sun. at 7. • The Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St. (212-239-6200).

Saint Lucy's Eyes
The inimitable Ruby Dee stars in Bridgette A. Wimberly's new play set in 1968 Memphis. $36. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 3. • Women's Project Theatre, 424 W. 55th St. (212-239-6200).

Servicemen
Two night crawlers in World War II–era New York fight for the attention of departing servicemen. $25–$35. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. Through 4/29. • St. Clement's, 423 W. 46th St. (212-279-4200).

Six Goumbas and a Wannabe
Vincent Gogliormella's new comedy about Brooklyn buddies. $37.50. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Cap 21 Theater (212-239-6200).

A Skull in Connemara
The Roundabout Theatre Company presents the second episode of the "Leenane" trilogy by the talented playwright Martin McDonagh (*The Beauty Queen of Leenane*). $55. Tues.–Sat. at 7:30, Wed., Sat., and Sun. at 2:30. Through 5/20. • Gramercy Theatre, 127 E. 23rd St. (212-307-4100).

Opening

Behind the Music

Because once upon a time, musicians inspired more than just the creators of *Celebrity Deathmatch,* two new theatrical productions are taking their leads from the lives of memorable female singers. **Love, Janis**, in previews for an April 22 opening and adapted from the biography by Janis Joplin's sister Laura, stars Catherine Curtin (center) as the private Janis, and Cathy Richardson (left) and Andra Mitrovich (right), who take turns howling on songs like "Get It While You Can" and "Piece of My Heart." Meanwhile, Laura Nyro's music has inspired **Eli's Comin'**, a new musical about a woman who explores New York City, co-created by Bruce Buschel and *The Donkey Show*'s inventive director, Diane Paulus, in previews at the Vineyard Theatre. (See "Off Broadway.")

Stomp
As the title implies, a loud, aggressive, and energetic show. $29.50–$55. Tues.–Fri. at 8, Sat. at 7 and 10:30, Sun. at 3 and 7. Opened: 2/27/94. • Orpheum, 126 Second Ave. (212-477-2477).

The Subject Was Roses
The revival of Frank D. Gilroy's Pulitzer Prize–winning drama stars Jean Cocteau Rep regulars Craig Smith and Elise Stone. $15–$40. Call for schedule. Through 4/29. • Jean Cocteau Repertory, 330 Bowery (212-677-0060).

Summer Cyclone
Nela Wagman's new drama. $15. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 3. • Ensemble Studio Theatre, 549 W. 52nd St. (212-247-4982).

The Syringa Tree
Pamela Gien plays 28 characters in a superb solo show about a young girl who tries to come to terms with life in sixties South Africa. It's a surprising and unpredictable, utterly believable and affective tale of family love and loss amid the often reckless violence of Apartheid. $49.50. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Playhouse 91, 316 E. 91st St. (212-307-4100).

Ten Unknowns
In the latest offering from Jon Robin Baitz, Donald Sutherland plays a seventysomething painter whose hermitage in Mexico is disturbed by three visitors: Justin Kirk, Julianna Margulies, and Denis O'Hare. $50. Tues.–Sat. at 8., Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater, 150 W. 65th St. (212-239-6200).

Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding
A wedding and reception, with Italian buffet, champagne, and wedding cake. $67.50–$80. Thurs.–Sun. at 7, Sun. at 2. Opened: 2/6/88. • St. Luke's Church, 308 W. 46th St., and Vinnie Black's Coliseum, Hotel Edison, 221 W. 46th St. (212-239-6200).

Troilus and Cressida
The esteemed founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Sir Peter Hall, directs Off Broadway for the first time. $55. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 2, Sun. at 7. • American Place Theatre, 111 W. 46th St. (212-239-6200).

Up Against the Wind
Michael Develle Winn's new play investigates the life of the late rapper Tupac Shakur. $45. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 3, Sun. at 2 and 7. • New York Theatre Workshop, 79 E. 4th St. (212-239-6200).

Urban Zulu Mambo
A collection of short works by Kia Corthron, Suzan-Lori Parks, Ntozake Shange, and Regina Taylor. $47.50. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Peter Norton Space, 555 W. 42nd St. (212-244-7529).

The Vagina Monologues
Eve Ensler's ode to fannyboos, nappy dugouts, twats, etc., is now performed by trios of actresses. $55. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 5, Sun. at 3 and 7:30. • Westside Theatre, 407 W. 43rd St. (212-239-6200).

Vieques
Set on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, a new drama by Jorge González, the winner of the 2000 Nuestras Voces playwriting contest. Call for schedule. • Gramercy Arts Theatre, 138 E. 27th St. (212-889-2850).

What You Will
The innovative Moonwork Theater Company, much

Photograph by Gilles Decamps.

beloved for its creative adaptations, returns with a swipe at *Twelfth Night*. $19. Tues.–Sun. at 8. Sun. at 3. Through 4/21. • Connelly Theater, 220 E. 4th St. (212-279-4200).

A Will of His Own/Andromache
The irrepressible servant Crispin infuriates his tyrant and master in Michael Feingold's new translation of the Jean-Françoise Regnard 1708 comedy./Jean Racine's first successful play. $28–$35. Call for schedule. Performances in repertory. • Pearl Theatre Company, 80 St. Marks Pl. (212-598-9802).

Off-Off Broadway

Bacchae 2.1/A Mouthful of Birds
New York premieres of two versions of Euripides' classic play by Caryl Churchill and Charles L. Mee Jr. Wed.–Mon. at 7, Sat. and Sun. at 3. Call for complete schedule. • The Flea Theater, 41 White St. (212-226-2407).

Caveman/Boxing 2000
Downtown's favorite son, Richard Maxwell, opens his newest experimental play and reprises his successful pugilists tale. $15. *Caveman* runs 4/18–5/29, Wed.–Sat at 7:30. *Boxing 2000* runs 5/1–5/12, Wed.–Sat. at 9:30. • SoHo Rep, 46 Walker St. (212-479-7979).

Iceland
Performer-writer Roger Guenveur Smith and his musical accomplice Marc Anthony Thompson return with a work-in-progress presentation of their first piece since *A Huey P. Newton Story.* $10–$20. 4/20 and 4/21 at 8. • BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St., Brooklyn (718-636-4100).

Louis Slotin Sonata
Ensemble Studio Theater and the Sloan Foundation Science and Technology Project present a new work about the Los Alamos scientist, by Paul Mullin. $19. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 3. Through 4/29. • E.S.T., 549 W. 52nd St. (212-247-4982).

Monday Night Magic
Reputable magicians munch on glass, all in an intimate setting. $25–$27.50. Mon. at 8. • Sullivan Street Playhouse, 181 Sullivan St. (212-307-4100).

Mono
An inventive improvisatory play set in a barlike environment. $12. Thurs.–Sat. at 8. • Surf Reality, 172 Allen St. (212-358-3447).

Numerous Women
Nathan Parker stars in his own play with the talented Christopher Mattox. $12. Wed.–Sun. at 8. 4/18–5/12. • Theatre 22, 54 W. 22nd St. (212-981-8247).

Possessed
Based on Dostoevsky's novel, a musical play with dance and puppets by Robert Lyons and Kristin Marting. $15. Wed.–Sun. at 8:30. Through 4/21. • HERE, 145 Sixth Ave. (212-647-0202).

Rave Mom
Ann Magnuson plays a woman who has a nervous breakthrough. $15. Wed.–Sat. at 7:30. 4/19–4/29. • P.S. 122, 150 First Ave. (212-477-5288).

So Long Ago I Can't Remember
GAle GAtes presents a new work in thirteen installations. $20–$25. Tues.–Sat. at 8:30. • GAle GAtes, 37 Main St., Brooklyn (718-522-4597).

The Trail of Her Inner Thigh
A multilingual tale of a man and four women. $15. Tues.–Sat. at 8. • LAByrinth Theater Company, 48 W. 21st. St. (212-905-0593).

Urinetown
When an evil government bans private toilets, an evil corporation charges New York's denizens outrageous fees for the use of its port-a-potties. John Rando directs John Collum and other theater vets who must all crave a healthy dose of satire by now. $25. Mon., Wed.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 3, Sun. at 3 and 7:30. Through 5/13. • American Theater of Actors, 314 W. 54th St. (212-239-6200).

Us
Karen Malpede's psychosexual drama. $15–$20. Wed.–Sun. at 7, Sat. and Sun. at 2. Through 4/22. • HERE, 145 Sixth Ave., at Dominick St. (212-647-0202).

cue

Art

Edited by Edith Newhall

Galleries

Solos

Madison Avenue and Vicinity

Nicole Charbonnet
Paintings of images that suggest the memory of a place or an event; through 5/12. • Winston Wächter Mayer, 39 E. 78th St. (212-327-2526).

Dan Flavin/Donald Judd
A two-gallery exhibition of sculpture and works on paper by both Minimalist artists; through 5/25. • At Castelli, 59 E. 79th St. (212-249-4470), and Alexander, 59 Wooster St. (212-925-4338).

Suzan Frecon
Recent abstract paintings; through 4/28. • Markey, 42 E. 76th St. (212-517-9892).

Graham Nickson/Jilaine Jones
New paintings of landscapes and figures by the director of the New York Studio School/Sculptures in plaster, wood, and iron that suggest a narrative or chanced-upon environment. Through 4/28. • Salander-O'Reilly, 20 E. 79th St. (212-879-6606).

Jim Peters
New constructions inspired by the artist's travels in the south of France; through 4/28. • CDS, 76 E. 79th St. (212-772-9555).

Peter Reginato
New abstract painted-steel sculptures; through 4/28. • Adelson, the Mark Hotel, 25 E. 77th St. (212-439-6800).

Grace Roselli
Graphite portraits that focus on their subjects' inscrutability; through 4/28. • Friedman, 980 Madison Ave. (212-472-1527).

Jonathan Santlofer
Recent drawings and paintings of Dada and Surrealist artists, and of fictional narratives staged at Andy Warhol's Factory; through 4/28. • Graham, 1014 Madison Ave. (212-535-5767).

Sean Scully
Recent paintings and photographs on the theme of light and gravity; through 4/28. • Knoedler & Company, 19 E. 70th St. (212-794-0550).

Houghton Cranford Smith
Landscape paintings by the American artist (1887–1983) who abandoned Impressionism in 1930 for the Purist style of his French mentors Amédée Ozenfant and André L'hote; through 5/12. • York, 21 E. 65th St. (212-772-9155).

Albert York
A loan exhibition of paintings and drawings of landscapes and still life; through 5/5. • Davis & Langdale, 231 E. 60th St. (212-838-0333).

57th Street Area

Adele Alsop
Paintings of the desert of southern Utah; through 4/28. • Schmidt Bingham, 41 E. 57th St. (212-888-1122).

Joe Andoe
Recent, mostly monochromatic paintings of landscapes in the artist's native Oklahoma; through 5/5. • Helman, 20 W. 57th St. (212-245-2888).

Dale Chihuly
A selection of the artist's glass works; through 5/5. • Marlborough, 40 W. 57th St. (212-541-4900).

Will Cotton
New paintings of close-up views of desserts; through 5/5. • Boone, 745 Fifth Ave. (212-752-2929).

Mary Ann Currier/Jan Lassetter
Still-life pastels/Realist paintings of lake, pond, and river settings in Peru, London, and the United States. Through 4/28. • Bernarducci Meisel, 37 W. 57th St. (212-593-3757).

Marcel Duchamp
Objects, texts, photographs, and drawings dating from the 1920s to the 1960s that trace the artist's preoccupation with the display, collection, and exhibition of art; through 5/5. • Zabriskie, 41 E. 57th St. (212-752-1223).

Robert Graham
Figure drawings that the sculptor made while staying at the Stanhope Hotel; through 5/19. • McGrath, 20 W. 57th St. (212-956-3366).

Valerie Hird
Paintings that weave images of landscapes and textile patterns; through 4/28. • Haime, 41 E. 57th St. (212-888-3550).

Glen Holland/Robert Ferrandini
New small-scale paintings of household objects/Imaginary landscapes. Through 4/28. • Fischbach, 24 W. 57th St. (212-759-2345).

Roxy Paine
New art-making machines that produce unique works of art; through 5/5. • Cohan, 41 W. 57th St. (212-755-7171).

Joan Hernández Pijuan
Heavily impastoed monochromatic paintings with drawings scratched into their surfaces; through 4/28. • Barquet, 41 E. 57th St. (212-644-9090).

Nigel Van Wieck
Oil pastels that depict New Yorkers dancing in the Swing era; through 4/28. • Beadleston, 724 Fifth Ave. (212-581-7544).

SoHo and TriBeCa

Haluk Akakçe
An animated walk-in painting that transports the viewer into a fusion of painting, video, and architecture; through 4/28. • Deitch Projects, 76 Grand St. (212-343-7300).

Anselme Boix-Vives
Paintings of exotic animals and birds in fantastic landscapes by a Spanish-born self-taught artist (1899–1969) who strove to create images of peace and joy; through 5/25. • Ross, 568 Broadway (212-343-2161).

Carmen Cicero
Recent paintings that imbue ordinary cityscapes and landscapes with a dreamlike aura; through 5/1. • Kelly, 591 Broadway (212-226-1660).

Brett Cook-Dizney
Spray-painted self-portraits, each of which documents a different stage of the artist's childhood; through 5/12. • P.P.O.W., 476 Broome St. (212-941-8642).

Ron Ehrlich
New paintings that depict traces of the human figure; through 5/1. • Haller, 560 Broadway (212-219-2500).

Dan Flavin/Donald Judd
A two-gallery exhibition of sculpture and works on paper by both artists; through 5/25. • At Alexander, 59 Wooster St. (212-925-4338), and Castelli, 59 E. 79th St. (212-925-4338).

Robert Gniewek
Realist paintings of American motels, gas stations, and diners; through 4/28. • Meisel, 141 Prince St. (212-677-1340).

Lucy MacKenzie/John Okulick
Paintings, drawings, and assemblages/New wall sculptures. Through 5/2. • Hoffman, 429 W. Broadway (212-966-6676).

Bill Saylor
Paintings that mix images of logos, tabloid headlines,

Ground Rules

Galleries are generally open Tuesday through Saturday, from between 10 and 11 to between 5 and 6.

and texts from scientific journals with swaths of gestural abstraction; through 4/28. • Koenig, 359 Broadway (212-334-9255).

Renee Stout/Stephen Greene
Recent mixed-media paintings/Drawings. Through 4/28. • Beitzel, 102 Prince St. (212-219-2863).

Diana Thater
Video wall projections that depict birds, trees, and flowers opposite to their actual size; through 5/5. • Zwirner, 43 Greene St. (212-966-9074).

Ian Wilson/Robert Ryman
Reliefs made between 1966 and 1969 that have not been previously exhibited, a chalk circle drawn directly on the gallery's floor, and a series of handmade books/Paintings executed between 1965 and 1985. Through 6/2. • Blum, 99 Wooster St. (212-343-0441).

Terry Winters
Sixty new paintings from the series "Set Diagram" displayed in a site-specific installation by the architect Rem Koolhaas; through 4/28. • Lehmann Maupin, 39 Greene St. (212-965-0753).

Chelsea

Robert Barry
Early conceptual works from the sixties and seventies; through 5/2. • Gasser & Grunert, 524 W. 19th St. (212-807-9494).

Robert Beck
New drawings; through 5/5. • CRG, 535 W. 22nd St. (212-966-4360).

Bruce Bosnan/Bill Komoski
Painted constructions/Graphic abstract paintings. Through 5/12. • Feature, 530 W. 25th St. (212-675-7772).

Barbara Broughel
New installations, sculptures, paintings, and drawings from the series "Perspective, Optics and the Legibility of Nature" that evoke the life of an eighteenth-century Dutch female scientist-experimenter; through 5/5. • Taylor, 535 W. 22nd St. (646-230-0992).

Mary Carlson/Hilary Harkness
Recent sculpture inspired by the undersea world/Paintings of interiors populated only by female characters. Through 5/5. • Maynes, 529 W. 20th St. (212-741-3318).

Steve DiBenedetto
Paintings in which helicopters, octopi, and Ferris wheels occupy what appear to be endlessly morphing amusement-park-like environments; through 5/2. • Baumgartner, 418 W. 15th St. (212-633-2276).

Joanne Greenbaum
Paintings that depict circles, spirals, lines, and blocks of color that undermine the sense of gravity associated with the history of painting; through 4/28. • D'Amelio Terras, 525 W. 22nd St. (212-352-9460).

Fariba Hajamadi
An installation of a museum space that serves as a self-portrait of the artist; through 5/12. • Burgin, 243 W. 18th St. (212-462-2668).

Toon Kuijpers
New paintings; through 5/5. • Scott, 529 W. 20th St. (646-486-7004).

Surasi Kusolwong
An installation titled *New York Night Market (chaos minimal)* that allows visitors to purchase Thai household products; through 5/5. • Lombard-Freid, 531 W. 26th St. (212-967-8040).

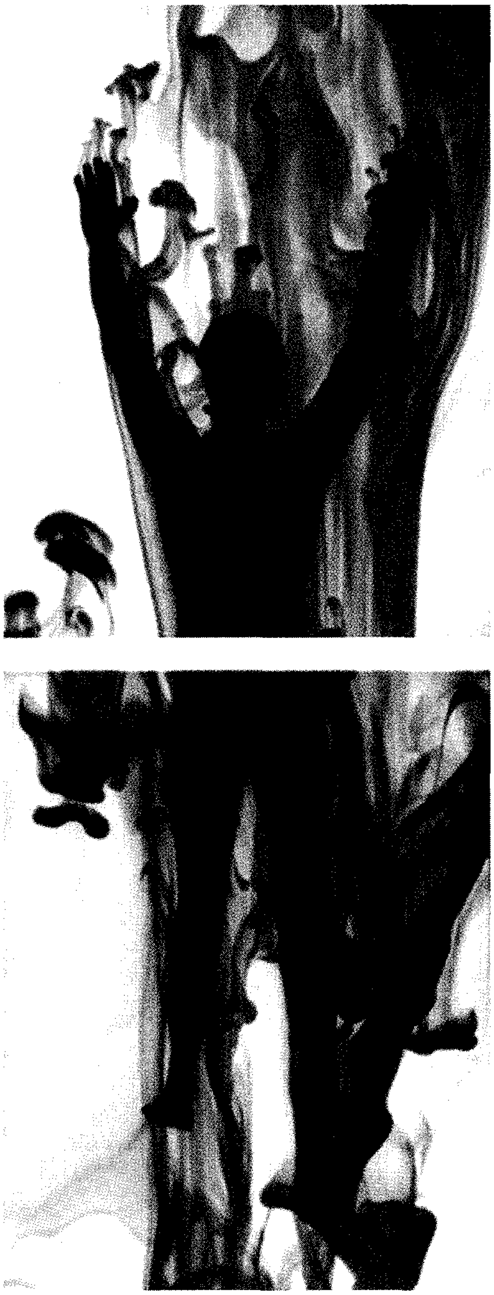
Sean Landers/Lee Friedlander
Large-scale paintings utilizing imagery from four of Picasso's epic paintings/Photographic portraits of individuals taken over a 40-year period, including images of John Szarkowski, Garry Winogrand, R. B. Kitaj, and the photographer's family. Through 5/19. • Rosen, 525 W. 24th St. (212-627-6000).

Sherrie Levine/Donald Judd
New paintings on aluminum panels that depict grids of alternating red and gray squares/A large plywood sculpture from 1975. Through 4/28. • Cooper, 534 W. 21st St. (212-255-1105).

Photography

Better Art Through Chemistry

The latest addition to Andrew Bordwin's ongoing "Incubator" series is this eerie group of photographs that appear to portray wispy figures emerging from or disappearing into the depths—sort of a cross between a genie and the Creature from the Black Lagoon. But in fact these images are of the chemical reaction that occurs when copper figures are immersed in a tank of reactive solution and then exposed to an electrical current, a process inspired by electrochemical telegraphy, invented in 1849 by Alexander Bain. At Sara Meltzer Gallery, 516 West 20th Street; through May 5.



Photograph coutesy of Andrew Bordwin.

Damian Loeb
New paintings that depict figures in dark, mysterious circumstances; through 5/5. • Boone, 541 W. 24th St. (212-752-2929).

David Lowe
Paintings of Italian landscapes; through 4/28. • Coploff, 508 W. 26th St. (212-741-1149).

Kristin Lucas
A two-channel video installation, *Involuntary Reception*, about a young woman whose mind and body are inhabited by unusually large levels of electromagnetivity; through 5/5. • Postmasters, 459 W. 19th St. (212-727-3323).

John Newman
New sculptures from the artist's "Homespun" series that employ materials and techniques used by craftsmen in India, China, Japan, and Africa; 4/20–5/26. • Von Lintel & Nusser, 555 W. 25th St. (212-242-0599).

Beverly Pepper
New stone sculptures; through 4/28. • Marlborough Chelsea, 211 W. 19th St. (212-463-8634).

Walter Pichler
New sculptures, architectural models, and drawings • Gladstone, 515 W. 24th St. (212-206-9300).

Ilona Rich
Carnivalesque sculptures painted with stripes, and portraits culled from mass media, plus a line of surreal clothing of the artist's own design; through 4/28. • Mansion, 547 W. 27th St. (212-505-7055).

Jenny Scobel
Pencil drawings of pensive women against background scenes culled from cartoons of the thirties and forties; through 4/28. • Erben, 516 W. 20th St. (212-645-8701).

Andrew Spence
Recent abstract paintings whose emblematic forms are distilled from commonplace architecture and design; through 5/5. • Thorp, 210 Eleventh Ave. (212-691-6565).

Marnie Weber
Video installations, large-scale collage, and costumes that tell the story of a princess who is forever in waiting; through 4/28. • Fredericks Freiser, 504 W. 22nd St. (212-633-6555).

Terry Winters
Drawings executed over the past five years that continue the artist's interest in exploring and mapping complex kinds of order, chaos, gravity, and speed through the abstract use of color, line, and volume; through 4/28. • Marks, 523 W. 24th St. (212-243-0200).

Betty Woodman
Two new large-scale ceramic installations; through 4/28. • Protetch, 511 W. 22nd St. (212-633-6999).

Group Shows

Madison Avenue and Vicinity

Roth Horowitz
Photographic book-works from the seventies by Araki, Boltanski, Dimitrijevic, Gilbert & George, Le Gac, others; through 4/28. • 160a E. 70th St. (212-717-9067).

Sculpture Center
"Once, Then Something," sculpture that incorporates ephemeral elements, by Brandmeier, Finch, Pétursson, Signer, Zausner; through 4/28. •

57th Street Area

D C Moore
"Self-Made Men: Male Self Portraits," works by Bates,

Close, Crumb, Kitaj, Pearlstein, Spiegelman, Winkfield, others; through 5/5. • 724 Fifth Ave. (212-247-2111).

PaineWebber
"Tibet: Mountains and Valleys, Castles and Tents From the Newark Museum Collection," an exhibition exploring the ancient culture of Tibet through rare artifacts and documentary materials; through 6/22. • 1285 Sixth Ave. (212-713-2885), Mon.-Fri. 8-6.

Rosenfeld
"*Out of the Fifties—Into the Sixties*," a celebration of figurative expressionism in the fifties and sixties, with works by Delaney, Golub, Johnson, Muller, Thompson; through 5/5. • 24 W. 57th St. (212-247-0082).

St. Etienne
"Art With an Agenda: Politics, Persuasion, Illustration & Decoration," works by Arntz, Grosz, Heartfield, Kollwitz, Schiele, others; through 6/16. • 24 W. 57th St. (212-245-6734).

SoHo and TriBeCa

Bridgewater/Lustberg & Blumenfeld
"Reconsidering the Renaissance," paintings, drawings, photographs, and sculpture by Barsness, Boody, Buh, Golden, O'Reilly, Pujol, Sharrett, others; through 4/28. • 560 Broadway (212-941-6355).

Exit Art
Works in various media that explore the notion of danger, by Chambers, Green, Morales, MacMurtrie, Seubert, others; through 5/19. • 548 Broadway (212-966-7745).

O.K. Harris
Five one-person exhibitions of works by Bechtle, Kagan, Constantine, Onyshko, Fox; through 4/28. • 383 W. Broadway (212-431-3600).

Chelsea

Kempner
"Minimalennialism," a collection of the twenty-first century's most celebrated Minimalists, including works from Ellsworth Kelly, Sol Lewitt, Julia Mangold, Wes Mills, and others; through 5/5. • 501 W. 23rd St. (212-206-6872).

Van Alen
"Architecture + Water," an exhibition exploring the ways in which architecture can respond to the natural waterfront, featuring designs by MVRDV, Holl, Diller+Scofidio, Foreign Office, and Alsop+Stormer; through 9/1. • 30 W. 22nd St. (212-924-7000).

Photography

Oliver Boberg
Images of "skies" constructed by the artist from cotton, dry ice, and Plexiglas sheets; through 4/28. • Morris, 465 W. 23rd St. (212-727-2752).

Bill Brandt
A retrospective of vintage prints by the English photographer (1904–83) whose work included photojournalism, portraiture, abstracted nudes, and landscapes; through 5/5. • Houk, 745 Fifth Ave. (212-750-7070

Marjorie Content
Photographs taken between 1931 and 1935 on trips to Bermuda and New Mexico with Georgia O'Keeffe; through 4/28. • Washburn, 20 W. 57th St. (212-397-6780).

De Lellis
Photographs by Peter Moore documenting the demolition of Penn Station between 1963 and 1966, and group of photographs showing the construction of Grand Central Station between 1911 and 1912 that were recently discovered in the estate of Eben Robison, an engineer who worked for Balcom & Darrow, a firm involved in the station's construction; through 5/12. • 47 E. 68th St. (212-327-1482).

Mitch Epstein
Photographs of Americans in recreation, dating from the seventies to the present; through 4/28. • Sikkema Private View, 504 W. 22nd St. (646-336-5353), Wed.-Sat. 11-6.

Lee Friedlander
Photographs of children, among them the photographer's own grandchildren; through 5/14. • Borden, 560 Broadway (212-431-0166).

Candida Hofer
Large-scale square photographs that document the physical and historic layers of public buildings; through 5/15. • Sonnabend, 536 W. 22nd St. (212-627-1018).

ICP
"Behind Closed Doors: The Art of Hans Bellmer." A survey of photographs and works in other media from the twenties and thirties by the Surrealist known for his erotic, lifelike images of dolls; through 6/10. • "Kiki Smith: Telling Tales." The first museum exhibition devoted exclusively to the artist's photographs, digital prints, and video projections; through 6/10. • "Dear Friends: American Photographs of Men Together, 1840–1918." Daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes, and early paper prints whose images of men together suggest a surprisingly broadminded attitude toward intimacy between men; through 6/10. • 1133 Sixth Ave. (212-860-1777).

ICP
"Mark Ellen Mark: American Odyssey." A retrospective celebrating the work of ICP's second annual Cornell Capa Award for distinguished photography; through 6/17. • 1130 Fifth Ave. (212-360-1777), Tues.-Thurs. 10-5, Fri. 10-8 (voluntary contribution from 5-8), Sat. and Sun. 10-6; $6, $4 students and seniors.

Kraus
British paper negatives dating from 1839 to 1864; through 5/4. • The Mark Hotel, 25 E. 77th St. (212-794-2064).

Steven Pippin
Recent black-and-white self-portraits; through 5/5. • Brown's Enterprise, 436 W. 15th St. (212-627-5258).

Thomas Roma
Recent photographs from the series "Seen and Unseen" that contrast the rural landscape with the urban cityscape; through 5/5. • Meyerowitz, 580 Broadway (212-625-3434).

Kiki Smith
New color photographs that incorporate drawing; through 5/5. • Pace/MacGill, 32 E. 57th St. (212-759-

Retrospective

The Celebrated Mr. K

For those in search of the hottest British and American art in sixties London, there was no cooler spot than the Kasmin Gallery on New Bond Street. The white skylighted space displayed the works of Anthony Caro, David Hockney, Morris Louis, Kenneth Noland, Jules Olitski, Frank Stella, and others, and was designed, says the same Mr. Kasmin (pictured, holding an Olitski and in front of a Noland), "so that you could stand in the middle of it and see the whole show by turning around." Now, thanks to his son, Paul, New Yorkers who weren't there can have a Kasmin experience of their own. "People have always asked if I'm related to Kasmin in London," says the younger Kasmin, who will end the mystery once and for all with **Kasmin's Sixties**, an exhibition in his own Chelsea gallery (293 Tenth Avenue, near 27th Street; April 26 through May 26) of paintings and sculpture championed by his father in the sixties. He'll be showing, among other rarely seen gems, Hockney's *A Less Realistic Still Life* (1965), a painting that is for sale for the first time since his father sold it to a friend in 1965. The show will not contain works by every artist who ever showed at the gallery, however, says Paul, who made his father narrow the list to artists who meant the most to him. "We'll see if my memory of the gallery as an important institution holds up," quips Dad. Paul promises a fresh look at sixties masters. "You've never seen a Morris Louis in a converted garage in Chelsea, have you?" *Yeah, baby.* E.N.

Photograph by John Goldblatt, courtesy of the Paul Kasmin Gallery.

7999).

Maggie Taylor/Charles Harbutt

Digital ink-jet prints of surreal still lifes, narratives, and portraits/Black-and-white photographs that capture people in fleeting moments. Through 5/19. • Miller, 20 W. 57th St. (212-397-3930).

David Vestal

Black-and-white photographs of New York, Chicago, and Connecticut that capture still moments in otherwise restless cities; through 4/28. • Mann, 210 Eleventh Ave. (212-989-7600).

John Yang

Photographs of sepulchral portraits on old tombstones in the Mount Zion cemetery in Maspeth, Queens; through 5/15. • Stevenson, 338 W. 23rd St. (212-352-0070).

Museums

American Craft Museum

"Made in Oakland: The Furniture of Garry Knox Bennett." The first retrospective of one of America's best-known furniture-makers; through 4/29. • 40 W. 53rd St. (212-956-3535), Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., and Sun. 10-6, Thurs. 10-8 (pay what you wish 6-8); $5, $2.50 students and seniors.

American Museum of Natural History

"The Butterfly Conservatory: Tropical Butterflies Alive in Winter." More than 300 butterflies from Central, South, and North America housed in a walk-in vivarium; through 5/28. • Central Park West at 79th St. (212-769-5100); Sun.-Thurs. 10-5:45, Fri. and Sat. 10-8:45; $8 suggested contribution, $6 students and seniors, $4.50 children.

Brooklyn Museum of Art

"A Family Album: Brooklyn Collects." More than 200 major artworks, ranging from antiquities to contemporary paintings, lent by collectors who have deep connections to Brooklyn; through 7/1. • "Committed to the Image: Contemporary Black Photographers." Works by 94 photographers, among them Albert Chong, Gordon Parks, Jeffrey Henson Scales, Carrie Mae Weems, and Ernest Withers; through 4/29. • 200 Eastern Pkwy., Brooklyn (718-638-5000), Wed.-Fri. 10-5, Sat. 11-6 (till 11 P.M. on the first Sat. of every month), Sun. 11-6; $4, $2 students and seniors.

China Institute

"Living Heritage: Vernacular Environment in China," photographs by Li Yuxiang and other Chinese photographers taken between 1993 and 1999 that explore the role of the traditional Chinese home; through 6/10. • 125 E. 65th St. (212-744-8181), Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat. 10-5, Tues. and Thurs. 10-8, Sun. 1-5; $3, $2 students and seniors.

Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution

"Rooms With a View: Landscape and Wallpaper." Selections of wallcoverings from the museum's collection that reveal changing attitudes toward nature; 4/24–10/14. • "Aluminum by Design: Jewelry to Jets." The first major museum exhibit to explore the role of aluminum as a catalyst for design in Europe and America; through 7/15. • 2 E. 91st St. (212-849-8300), Wed.-Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-5, Tues. 10-9 (5-9, free admission); $8, $3 students and seniors.

Dahesh Museum of Art

"Gérôme & Goupil: Art and Enterprise." An exhibition exploring the mutually advantageous partnership between the nineteenth-century painter Jean-Léon Gérôme and his art dealer/publisher Adolphe Goupil; through 5/5. • 601 Fifth Ave., at 49th St. (212-759-0606), Tues.-Sat. 11-6; free.

Dia Center for the Arts

"Diana Thater: *Knots and Surfaces*." A large-scale multiprojection video installation that interacts with the architecture of Dia's third-floor gallery; through 1/30/02. • "Panamarenko: *Orbit*." An exhibition pairing the Belgian artist's key work, *Aeromodeller*, an experimental flying machine built in 1969–71, with a work created this year; through 6/17. • "Bridget Riley: *Reconnaissance*." The British artist's seminal paintings from the sixties and seventies in which carefully calibrated geometric patterns seem to move rhythmically across a canvas; through 6/17. • "Jorge Pardo: *Project*." A transformation of the Dia Center's 6,000-square-foot ground floor featuring colored ceramic tiles, mural paintings, glass dividers, stylish seating, increased natural light, and an expanded bookstore; through 6/17. • "Rodney Graham and Bruce Nauman: . . . *the nearest faraway place* . . ." New and earlier works by both artists that reflect their shared interests in the myth of the American West; through 6/17. • 548 W. 22nd St. (212-989-5566), Wed.-Sun. noon-6; $6, $3 students and seniors.

Frick Collection

"Mantegna's *Descent Into Limbo*, From the Barbara Piasecka Johnson Collection." A smaller version of Mantegna's original masterpiece that was probably painted by the artist for Ferdinand Carlo, the last duke of Mantua, around 1470–75; through 8/1. • "Six Paintings From the Former Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney on Loan From the Greentree Foundation." Works by Corot, Degas, Manet, Picasso, Redon; through 7/29. • 1 E. 70th St. (212-288-0700); Tues.-Sat. 10-6, Sun. 1-6; $7, $5 students and seniors; children under 10 not admitted.

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

"Hugo Boss Prize 2000: Marjetica Potrc." An installation exploring the urban condition as it manifests itself worldwide by this Slovenian artist who was awarded the Hugo Boss Prize in November 2000; through 4/29. • "The Global Guggenheim: Selections From the Extended Collection." Approximately 175 works from the museum's collection, including paintings, sculpture, and works on paper spanning Impressionism through Pop Art; through 4/22. • "Project for a New Guggenheim Museum in New York City." Architect Frank Gehry's preliminary plans and models for a new Guggenheim developed in connection with the museum's response to a Request for Proposals issued by the New York City Economic Development Corporation for the development of Piers 9, 13, and 14 on the East River in lower Manhattan; through 4/21. • 1071 Fifth Ave., at 88th St. (212-423-3500), Sun.-Wed. 9-6, Fri. and Sat. 9-8 (Fri. 6-8, pay what you wish), closed Thurs.; $12, $8 students and seniors.

Japan Society

"Frank Lloyd Wright and the Art of Japan: The Architect's Other Passion." Works of art and objects collected by the architect during his several sojourns in Japan, as well as drawings for architectural projects he was commissioned to build in Japan; through 7/15. • 333 E. 47th St. (212-832-1155), Tues.-Fri. 11-6, Sat. and Sun. 11-5; $5, $3 students and seniors.

Jewish Museum

"Voice, Image, Gesture: Selections From the Jewish Museum's Collection, 1945–2000." More than 60 works from the museum's collection, by Diane Arbus, Tina Barney, Adolph Gottlieb, Hannah Wilke, Andy Warhol, and others; through 8/5. • 1109 Fifth Ave., at 92nd St. (212-423-3200), Sun., Mon., Wed., Thurs. 11-5:45; Tues. 11-8 (Tues. after 5, pay what you wish); $8, $5.50 students and seniors.

Metropolitan Museum of Art

"William Blake." The first American exhibition of works in all media by the British Romantic artist (1757–1827), including drawings, paintings, prints, and illuminated books; through 6/24. • "Vermeer and the Delft School." Paintings by Johannes Vermeer, Pieter de Hooch, and other artists of the Delft School; through 5/27. • "The Treasury of Basel Cathedral." Ecclesiastical and secular objects from the Historisches Museum Basel and other European museums dating from the eleventh through the early sixteenth centuries that were originally part of the medieval treasury of the Basel Minister; through 5/27. • "William Trost Richards in the Metropolitan Museum of Art." Drawings and paintings by the Philadelphia-born artist (1833–1905), depicting landscapes and marine subjects in Pennsylvania, New England, and the British Isles; through 5/13. • "Correggio and Parmigianino: Master Draftsmen of the Renaissance." More than 130 drawings from private and public collections by the two masters of the Emilian School of early-sixteenth-century Italy; through 5/6. • "Photography: Processes, Preservation, and Conservation." An exhibition celebrating the museum's new Sherman Fairchild Center for Works on Paper and Photograph Conservation, exploring various photographic processes and methods of conservation; through 5/6 • "Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Chinese Paintings From the Robert H. Ellsworth Collection in the Metropolitan Museum of Art"; through 8/19. • "Rain From the Moon: Silver in Ancient Peru." Approximately 130 silver objects from private and public collections in the U.S.; through 4/22. • 1000 Fifth Ave., at 82nd St. (212-879-5500); Tues.-Thurs. and Sun. 9:30-5:30, Fri. and Sat. 9:30-9; $10 contribution, $5 students and seniors. The Cloisters, Fort Tryon Park (212-923-3700); Tues.-Sun. 9:30-4:45 (closes at 5:15 between April and September); $10, $5 students and seniors.

Morgan Library

"Jean Poyet: Artist to the Court of Renaissance France." The first one-person show dedicated to the work of the fifteenth-century French manuscript illuminator who worked for the courts of Louis XI, Charles VIII, and Louis XII; through 5/6. • "The World Observed: Five Centuries of Drawings From the Collection of Charles Ryskamp." Works from the collection of the former director of the Morgan Library and the Frick Collection; through 5/9. • 29 E. 36th St. (212-685-0008), Tues.-Thurs. 10:30-5, Fri. 10:30-8, Sat. 10:30-6, Sun. 12-6; $8, $6 students and seniors.

El Museo del Barrio

"Antonio Frasconi: Langston Hughes's *Let America Be America Again*, a Portfolio of Woodcuts, 1997–98." A recent suite of prints by the internationally recognized master of the woodcut medium; through 5/20. • "Contemporánea 2001: Neighbors—An Installation by Leandro Erlich." A site-specific installation that transforms a typical apartment-building corridor into a confounding space of peepholes, locked doors, and a strange elevator; through 5/20. • "Here & There/Aquí y Allá: Six Artists From San Juan." Works in various media by six contemporary artists living in Puerto Rico; through 5/20. • 1230 Fifth Ave. (212-831-7272), Wed.-Sun. 11-5; $4, $2 students and seniors.

Museum for African Art

"African Forms." Handcrafted objects from more than 156 ethnic groups and 34 African nations, among them clothing, jewelry, kitchen utensils, devotional objects, and musical instruments; through 8/8. • 593 Broadway (212-966-1313), Tues.-Fri. 10:30-5:30, Sat. and Sun. noon-6; $5, $2.50 students, seniors, and children.

Museum of American Folk Art

"ABCD: A Collection of Art Brut." *Art brut* works by Darger, Mackintosh, Ramirez, Wölfli, and others, from the collection of the Paris-based foundation ABCD (Art Brut Connaissance & Diffusion); through 7/28. • Two Lincoln Square (212-595-9533), Tues.-Sun. 11:30-7:30; free.

Museum of Jewish Heritage

"Citizens Betrayed: The Hungarian Forced Labor Battalions/1939–1945." Photographs, memorabilia, and artifacts on loan from the Sydney Jewish Museum; through 9/3. • 18 First Place, Battery Park City (212-968-1800), Sun.-Wed. 9-5, Thurs. 9-8, Fri. and the eve of Jewish holidays 9-3, closed Sat. and Jewish holidays; $7, $5 students and seniors.

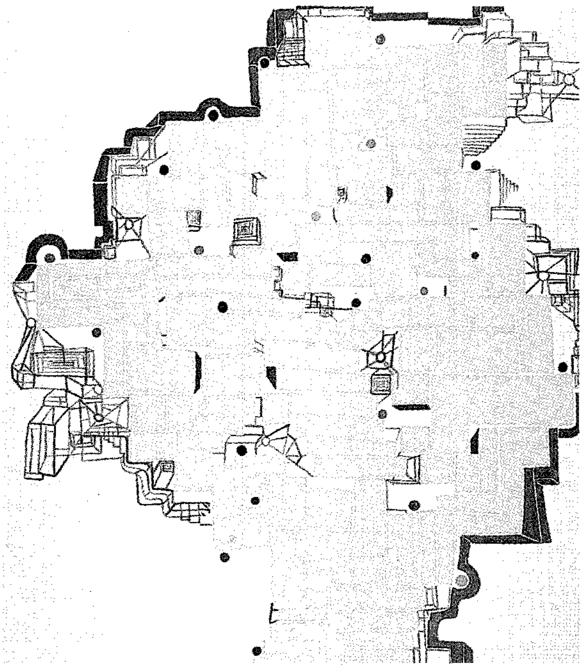
Museum of Modern Art

"Andreas Gursky." A retrospective of works by the German photographer covering 1984 to the present and exploring such subjects as tourism, architecture, sporting events, and techno-music raves; through 5/15. • "Workspheres." An exhibition examining the changing nature of the workplace and the role of design in creating solutions to accommodate such changes, including works from LOT/EK architecture, the MIT Media Laboratory, Digital Image Design, IDEO, Jongeriuslab, and others; through 4/22. • "Van Gogh's Postman: The Portraits of Joseph Roulin." Five of the six paintings that the artist made of his friend and protector during 1888 and 1889; through 5/15. • "Collaborations With *Parkett*: 1984 to Now." An exhibition celebrating the museum's recent acquisition of artworks commissioned by *Parkett*, the contemporary journal of art and ideas; through 6/5. • "About Face: Selections From the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books." Modern and contemporary prints after portraits, by Dottie Attie, Max Beckmann, Richard

Talent

Construction Sites

Letting your pen roam freely when your mind is otherwise engaged can result in a channeling of images specific to you. Doing the same with oil paint on a large canvas, **Joanne Greenbaum** creates skeletal diagrammatic compositions (pictured, *Untitled,* 2000–2001) that suggest scaffolding, buildings under construction, street maps, and architectural renderings; the overall effect is of a dizzying, otherworldly map of the subconscious. At D'Amelio Terras, 525 West 22nd Street; through April 28.



Hamilton, Sherrie Levine, Pablo Picasso, and others; through 6/5. • "What is a Print?" Examples of the four main printmaking processes—woodcut, etching, lithography, and screenprint—shown with the tools used in their creation; through 6/5. • 11 W. 53rd St. (212-708-9480); Sat.-Tues., Thurs. 10:30-5:45, Fri. 10:30-8:15 (4:30-8:15 pay what you wish), closed Wed.; $10, $6.50 students and seniors.

Museum of the City of New York

"Gay Men's Health Crisis: 20 Years Fighting for People With HIV/AIDS." A look at the role the Gay Men's Health Crisis has played in the ongoing effort to fight HIV/AIDS; 4/21–9/10. • Art at the Table: Lotos Club State Dinner Menus, 1898–1922." Twenty menus designed for special dinners held by the literary club honoring Samuel L. Clemens, Booth Tarkington, Admiral Robert E. Peary, and other luminaries of the day; through 7/29. • "Working Women: A Century of New York Junior League Volunteerism." Photographs, clothing, and ephemera documenting the movement founded by Mary Harriman in 1901; through 8/12. • "Guys & Dolls: The Fabled Musical of Broadway." Scene designs, costumes, photographs, and ephemera drawn from the archives of composer Frank Loesser and playwright Abe Burrows that reveal how they turned the Damon Runyon story "The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown" into the 1950 hit musical; through 6/10. • 1220 Fifth Ave., at 103rd St. (212-534-1672), Wed.-Sat. 10-5, Sun. 1-5; $5 suggested contribution, $4 students and seniors.

Museum of the Fashion Institute of Technology

"Dreaming in Print: A Decade of *Visionaire.*" An exhibition covering the first ten years of the multi-format magazine of fashion and art; through 4/21. • Seventh Ave. at 27th St. (212-217-7642), Tues.-Fri. noon-8, Sat. 10-5; free.

National Academy of Design

"Selections From the Collection." Recently acquired works by National Academicians Sam Gilliam, Red Grooms, Malcolm Morley, and Larry Rivers, as well as masterworks by William Merritt Chase, Asher B. Durand, John Singer Sargent, George Tooker, and others; through 5/6. • "The Cos Cob Art Colony: Impressionists on the Connecticut Shore." Works by the group of American artists who gathered in the Cos Cob section of Greenwich, Connecticut, between 1890 and 1920, among them Childe Hassam, Theodore Robinson, John Twachtman, and J. Alden Weir; through 5/13. • 1083 Fifth Ave. (212-369-4880), Wed., Thurs. 12-5, Fri. 10-6, Sat. and Sun. 10-5; $5.

New Museum of Contemporary Art

"Paul McCarthy." The first U.S. survey of the Los Angeles-based artist's work, a fusion of sculpture and performance characterized by combinations of pop-culture clichés, social taboos, and art-historical references; through 5/13. • 583 Broadway (212-219-1222), Wed. and Sun. noon-6, Thurs.-Sat. noon-8 (free Thurs. 6-8); $6, $3 artists, students, and seniors.

New York Public Library

"Touring West: Nineteenth-Century Performing Artists on the Overland Trails." Objects, manuscripts, photographs, and ephemera relating to the individual artists and troupes who brought entertainment to the pioneers and miners living in the newly mapped territories of the American West; through 7/7. • "Heading West: Mapping the Territory." Sheet maps, photographs, atlases, and books relating to the mapping of the American West from the collection of the library's Map Division; through 5/19. • Fifth Ave. and 42nd St. (212-869-8089), Mon. 10-6, Tues. and Wed. 11-7:30, Thurs.-Sat. 10-6; free.

New-York Historical Society

"Out of Time: Designs for the Twentieth-Century Future." Visions of the future as seen through twentieth-century architectural renderings, models, and drawings; through 6/10. • "Choosing to Participate." A multimedia traveling exhibition sponsored by the national educational organization Facing History and Ourselves; through 5/27. • "Walk About: Past and Present Views of New York." Photographs of New York in the nineties by Richard Benson, Mitch Epstein, Ed Grazda, Thomas Roma, and Michael Spano; through 6/17. • "Irwin Silver: Nightwalks." Photographs of New York City at night that were taken by Silver between 1979 and 1989; through 5/20. • "The Sight of Music: Prints From the Collection of Reba and Dave Williams." Twentieth-century prints offering visual interpretations of music, by Chuck Close, Red Grooms, Roy Lichtenstein, and others; through 6/17. • 2 W. 77th St. (212-873-3400); Tues.-Sun. 11-5; $5, $3 seniors and children.

P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center

"Atelier van Lieshout: *Darkroom.*" An outdoor installation by the Dutch artist Joep van Lieshout; through 5/29. • "Bernhard Martin: *Kings Corner.*" An installation of a walk-in closet that opens to reveal a table dance scene designed for a one-person audience; through 5/29. • "Luigi Ontani: 1965–2001." The first U.S. retrospective of work by the Italian artist known for his elaborate installations and *tableaux vivants* (living paintings); through 5/6. • "Massimo Bartolini: *Untitled (Wave).*" An installation of a pool in P.S.1's outdoor sculpture gallery; through 5/20. • 22-25 Jackson Ave., at 46th Ave., Long Island City (718-784-2084), Wed.-Sun. 12-6; $5 suggested donation.

Queens Museum of Art

"Gio Ponti: A Metaphysical World." Furniture, sculpture, and drawings by the groundbreaking Italian designer and founder of *Domus* magazine, including his Superleggera chair of 1957 made for Cassina; through 5/20. • "Around, Around, and Away—Not-a-Superhero and the Myth of New York." A wall drawing by Luca Buvoli accompanied by recorded narration and sound installations by Jeffrey Lependorf; through 5/27. • "Heart of Glass." Works by seven artists who take a conceptual and poetic approach to glass, among them Josiah McElheny, Katy Schimert, Kiki Smith, and Not Vital; through 5/27. • New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens (718-592-9700), Tues.-Fri. 10-5, Sat. and Sun. 12-5; $5, $2.50 students and seniors.

Whitney Museum of American Art

"BitStreams." An exhibition exploring the range of artistic expression made possible by digital technology, including installations, video, animation, photography, and sound pieces; through 6/10. • "Data Dynamics." Five new works of Internet art; through 6/10. • "Kenneth Josephson: A Retrospective." The first full-scale assessment of the work of this photographer, from his Conceptualist works of the sixties and seventies to his more recent images of street life in India, nudes, and European landscapes; through 5/27. • "The Things Themselves: Pictures of Dust by Vik Muniz." The artist's photographs of his drawings of dust based on photographs of minimalist sculptures in the museum's permanent collection; through 5/20. • 945 Madison Ave., at 75th St. (212-570-3676); Tues.-Thurs., Sat., Sun. 11-6, Fri. 1-9 (pay what you wish every Fri. 6-9); $10, $8 students, seniors, and groups of fifteen or more.

Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris

"Do-Ho Suh: Some/One." A new sculpture installation in which the Korean-born artist uses thousands of newly fabricated dog tags as his medium; 4/19–6/29. • 120 Park Ave. (917-663-2550), Mon.-Fri. 11-6 (Thurs. till 7:30); free.

Auctions

Christie's

4/18 at 10 and 2: "Photographs." On view from 4/14. 4/19 at 10 and 2: "Important English Furniture." On view from 4/14. 4/20 at 10 and 2: "Silver, Russian Paintings and Russian Works of Art." On view from 4/14. 4/23 at 2: "Books." On view from 4/14. 4/24 at 10 and 2: "Nineteenth-Century Furniture, Sculpture, Works of Art and Ceramics." On view from 4/14. • 20 Rockefeller Plaza (212-636-2000).

Doyle

4/24 at 10: "Important Estate Jewelry." On view from 4/21. 4/25 at 10: "American Furniture and Decorations." On view from 4/21. • 175 E. 87th St. (212-427-2730).

Sotheby's

4/19 at 10:15 and 2: "Sporting Paintings and Porcelain" and "Silver and Russian Works of Art." On view from 4/14. 4/20 at 10:15 and 2: "English Furniture." On view from 4/14. 4/23 at 10:15 and 2: "Magnificent Jewels." On view from 4/14. 4/24 at 10:15 and 2: "Arcade Jewels." On view from 4/14. • 1334 York Ave., at 72nd St. (212-606-7000).

Swann Galleries

4/19 at 10:30: "Rare Books." On view from 4/14. • 104 E. 25th St. (212-254-4710).

Photograph courtesy of D'Amelio Terras.

Restaurants

Edited by Robin Raisfeld
& Rob Patronite

New and Noteworthy

Ajisen Noodle
A lot of ramen around town can be disappointing—overcooked noodles in bland broth. Not so at Ajisen Noodle. Their pork-based house soup—one of three broth bases along with curry and miso—topped with sliced roast pork, scallions, and hard-cooked egg, is rich and satisfying, the whole-wheat noodles tender but firm. Even better is the "tenderous ribs" version, which turns out to be soup with slow-cooked boneless pork ribs. *Tenderous* indeed. • 14 Mott St. (212-267-9680). (I)

★ Alain Ducasse at the Essex House
After a harrowing ride through the critics' spanking machine, six-Michelin-star chef Alain Ducasse has emerged if not triumphant then at least standing. All his Cartier pens have been dutifully stolen, the array of mysterious knives presented in a leather case is gone, but the extravagantly Art Deco cocoon of a room feels more like a $160–prix fixe Michelin supernova now that the kitchen has pulled up its socks. Dishes that were very good to begin with have gotten even better—pea soup with crab cakes; silken woodcock, pheasant, and foie gras terrine; halibut with sea-urchin custard; glorious cheese; luscious rhubarb clafouti—and even the few disappointments don't sting so badly now that the chastised Ducasse has shown us his warm and fuzzy side. • 155 W. 58th St. (212-265-7300). (E)

★ Aleutia
You may have to navigate past the murky leather swathed bar crowd and scurry up the industrial steps to escape their piercing mating calls, but forsooth, there is light at the top of the stairs. In fact, if Aleutia is willing to shift its priorities a bit, it has the potential of being considered among the city's most inventive and satisfying seafood restaurants. Vibrantly flavored dishes like citrus grilled octopus or pancetta wrapped cod provide life preserving—make that affirming distractions—from the hormonally raging sea around you. • 220 Park Ave. So. (212-529-3111). (E)

Alphabet Kitchen
In a long, lofty room outfitted with a colorful mosaic alphabet and a dining counter flanking an open kitchen, chef Liz Arana (late of Provence) offers Spanish- and Portuguese-flavored food calibrated to every appetite. Nibble on such tapas as crab empanadas and Serrano ham, or tear into a moulard-duck cassoulet or roast suckling pig with grilled persimmon. In warm weather, seek refuge—and your choice of sangrias—by the stone waterfall in the backyard. • 171 Ave. A (212-982-3838). (M)

★ AZ
If you think pan-Asian fusion is so last decade, make haste to the Flatiron triplex that used to be Flowers, remade with a glass elevator and retractable roof and now home to chef Patricia Yeo and her inspired culinary inventions. What works? A trio of sensational chutneys on Indian flatbread, and lapsang souchon-smoked quail with scallion pancakes, for starters. A street-level lounge caters to lighter appetites. • 21 W. 17th St. (212-691-8888). (E)

★ Baldoria
Frank Pellegrino Jr.'s father earned the nickname Frankie No after years of politely declining requests for reservations at Rao's, his ten-table East Harlem celebrity hangout. Junior offers better odds in the theater district: 136 seats, plus a raw bar upstairs. A fugitive from Felidia's posh kitchen adds some verve to the home-style Neapolitan seafood salad and roasted peppers Pellegrino borrowed from his dad uptown. • 249 W. 49th St. (212-582-0460). (E)

Banjara
In spite of its location amid all those cookie-cutter curry cookers, Banjara is an oasis on Little India's restaurant row. The room and adjoining lounge are cliché-free. And chef Tuhin Dutta's unusual dishes like juicy clay-oven chicken marinated in wine and cream, and dumpakht (think supercolossal Indian potpie) should dispel any worries that the street's mythical underground shared kitchen has taken on a new client. • 97 First Ave. (212-477-5956). (M)

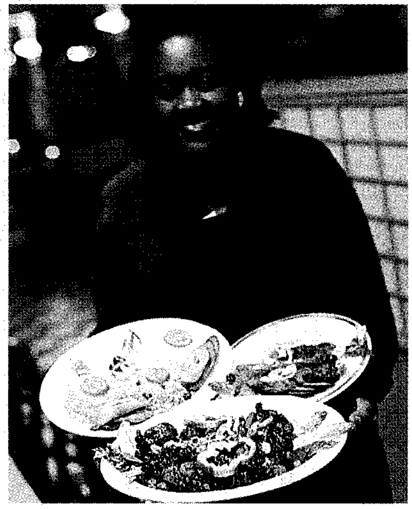
★ Beppe
Cesare Casella's devoted fans know him for his Tuscan cooking and his signature breast-pocket herb bouquet, both of which have resurfaced at this Gramercy trattoria. You'll also find an instant coziness, a pride of rustic Tuscan products stashed behind glass at the entrance, the warmth of a giant open fireplace. Casella's cozze are plump and sweet in a fiery broth; chewy handmade pinci noodles in walnut-tomato sauce are a triumph. We love braised black cabbage in toasted Tuscan bread, the grilled wild mushrooms with polenta crostini, and savory braised spare ribs. And desserts like sensational lemon "pudding" with candied orange peel are luscious variations on a Tuscan theme. • 45 E. 22nd St. (212-982-8422). (E)

Bot
The all-plastic décor at this NoLIta spinoff of Chelsea's Bottino refutes every Tuscan-trattoria cliché in the book, but the simply prepared, flavorful food and the mostly Italian wine list are reassuring proof that a traditional heart beats inside its ultramodern body. The iMac-hued garden room is linked to the front lounge by a serpentine expanse of chartreuse

The Underground Gourmet

How Dawn Got Her Groove Back

Typically, a talented and ambitious street-food vendor starts out pushing a tiny cart, somehow outwitting the mayor's review panel, and, if he or she is lucky, expanding to a kiosk or even a restaurant. Dawn D'Aguilar's career trajectory, however, is out of whack: In the eighties, she ran a takeout spot in Harlem, then pared her operation down to two Wall Street lunch carts called Jamaica on Wheels, which she parked for good a year ago, thinking she'd jerked her last chicken. But at the behest of her sons, Taiwo and Khalid, she's come out of retirement to open **Scotch Bonnet Jamaican Gourmet Restaurant**, a dim and as yet undiscovered garment-district joint with Bob Marley on a muted video loop, Steel Pulse on the sound system, and a kitchen big enough for her to strut her own considerable stuff. Everything is made from scratch ("all fresh," says D'Aguilar, "nothing shake-shake"); the kitchen and the dining room seem to operate on island time. If you're famished, place an order for crispy codfish fritters while you study the menu. They'll arrive with a fiery dipping sauce that may or may not contain the restaurant's namesake peppers (D'Aguilar won't say; she's planning to bottle it). All her sauces, in fact, share an unusual complexity; the jerk chicken, traditionally dry-rubbed and grilled, is falling-off-the-bone tender, smothered in sauce redolent of allspice that will have you lunging for the ginger beer, one of the truly spectacular homemade drinks (subtle sorrel, frothily sweet soursop, and bitter mauby among them) that soothe the slow burn. All the main courses ($12.95 to $15.95) are lavishly portioned and served with a choice of rice (we liked the moist, coconutty rice and peas) and vegetable (candied yams, chewy flour dumplings, peppery sautéed cabbage). Macaroni and cheese—deliciously rich and creamy corkscrews loaded with scallions, peas, beans, chickpeas, broccoli, and okra—is the work of a sneaky mom one night but a virtual Kraft Deluxe clone, missing the veggies, when we go for takeout one day. The menu boasts a vegetarian section, but one encounter with some tough tofu scared us straight back into carnivorousness. We relished a rich, Scotch-bonnet-hot oxtail stew; spicy goat curry with dense roti; and tangy escovitch fish of the day (fresh tilapia or kingfish on one visit). And "Cha-cha" chicken, tender morsels of hacked meat, came swaddled in a mildly spicy sauce studded with pineapples and onion, undoubtedly another original D'Aguilar concoction. We wouldn't be surprised to see it on a supermarket shelf in the near future. (32 West 31st Street; 212-594-7575). R.P.



Photographs by Patrik Rytikangas.

wall and an open kitchen and bar, which dispense fresh salads, satisfying pastas, and fruity Prosecco cocktails in equal measure. • 231 Mott St. (646-613-1312). (M)

★ Caffé La Grolla
The itty-bitty offshoot of Ristorante La Grolla performs three essential functions: It accommodates 28 extra bodies; it provides a more casual, late-night alternative to its popular parent; and it delivers. The menu's an appealing mix of La Grolla classics its regulars can't live without (veal scallopine, scrumptious artichokes) and brand-new dishes like supernally moist roasted pork loin and Neapolitan-style pizzas. • 411A Amsterdam Ave., nr. 80th St. (212-579-9200). (I-M)

★ Caffè Linda
Caffè Linda is a refuge for homesick Italian expats as well as midtown desk jockeys hungering for good food and a warm welcome. Owner Claudio Marini graciously provides both: Every meal begins with complimentary bruschetta and ends with a stick of Wrigley's with the check. In between, there's simple, satisfying salads; sandwiches; a dozen or so impeccably al dente pastas; and dinner specials like stewed rabbit with mashed potatoes and sautéed calamaretti with avocado. • 145 E. 49th St. (646-497-1818). (I-M)

Centolire
Pino Luongo seems to open a restaurant a year, and when you're that prolific, it helps to have a gimmick. At his slightly rusticated remake of the old Celadon space, the theme is Italian-American, a cooking style that's enjoying a bit of a kitschy comeback. Everything on the menu is labeled either Old World (like timpano, à la *Big Night*) or New World (the more genteel mezze maniche with cauliflower confit). And anything with a little pot-shaped symbol next to it is slowly baked in terra-cotta, a technique that seems to have bridged both chronological and continental divides. • 1167 Madison Ave., near 86th St. (212-734-7711). (M-E)

Chinghalle
The name of Mark Straussman's (Campagna) frenetic new contribution to the meatpacking district means "wild boar" in Italian, although the spelling's been altered, presumably to attract a wider clientele. The menu mingles artful down-home Mulberry Street cooking with an odd variety of New Country favorites like St. Louis ribs and a gelato banana split. Stick to the mostly delicious Italian food (try the three-cheese pizza, and spaghetti alla Nonna). And try to secure one of the vintage Belgian train-car booths, to keep from getting trampled by all the rowdy bankers. • 50 Gansevoort St. (212-242-3200). (M)

Craft
Tom Colicchio is a chef with a mission, two jobs, and what must be a crackerjack support team. When he's not supervising the three-star kitchen at Gramercy Tavern, he's reducing cooking (or elevating it, depending on your point of view) to its most basic elements, a tactic that works only when the ingredients are of the highest possible quality, procured from small family farms and artisanal producers. At his first solo venture, literally around the corner from Gramercy and decorated in a similarly elegant modern style, he and his chef de cuisine, Marco Canora, like any good craftsmen, collaborate on a high-concept menu that focuses almost obsessively on the raw materials. • 43 E. 19th St. (212-780-0880). (M-E)

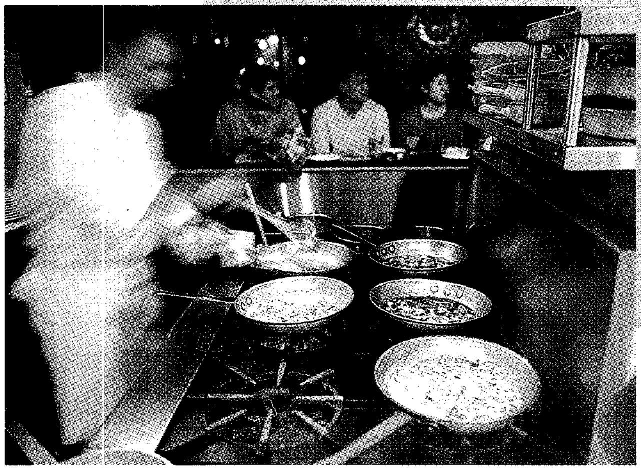
D'Artagnan, The Rotisserie
After fifteen years of selling foie gras and game to restaurants, D'Artagnan has opened its own: a narrow, high-ceilinged duplex countrified with tiled floors, rough ocher walls, a communal table, and Basque linens. Besides the signature terrines and charcuterie, there's seriously rib-sticking Gascon fare like cassoulet, spit-roasted free-range chicken, and "la garbure et son chabrot," a duck-confit soup dense enough to be eaten with a fork—or drunk in the true Gascon style, directly from the bowl. • 152 E. 46th St. (212-687-0300). (M-E)

★ Dim Sum gogo
What do you get when a French-American food writer (Colette Rossant) collaborates with a Hong Kong chef (Guy Lieu)? Dumpling dough flavored with beet juice, seasoned beef patties on steamed buns with taro fries, roast chicken smothered with fried garlic stems, and 24 kinds of dumplings. Plus four variations on the dough-wrapper theme, four different sauces, and microwave-safe takeout containers. • 5 E. Broadway (212-732-0797). (I-M)

Ask Gael

Whatever happened to innocence?

There's a French fire truck in the window and no sign anywhere. That's **Tappo.** I feel like I've stepped into a Judy Garland–Mickey Rooney let's-put-on-a-show moment. They met at Il Buco: owners Judy McCutcheon (after losing Casanis) and her partner, Armin Bellova, and their chef, Filippo Paoloni. So, no surprise, you'll be eating mostly oversize appetizer portions of Mediterranean familiars, then maybe a pasta from the list of daily specials—sensational maltagliati with Genovese ragù, or luscious spinach-and-ricotta raviolini in a fresh tomato sauce—then perhaps a grilled sirloin with arugula and Parmesan for the table to share. Disarmed by the energy and cheerfulness of the crew in this romantically dim flea market of a room (yes, a lot of the furniture is for sale), the five of us are sharing not-at-all-soupy lentil soup with spinach and a huge portion of seared tuna with giant corona beans, loving the crunch of endive salad with avocado, walnuts, apples, and Spanish goat cheese. The menu says "baby," but this is a *big* baby octopus, all in one piece, brilliantly caramelized and meltingly tender, a triumph. With two $20 bottles of Conde Ansurez Tinto ($5 a glass), even our excessive gourmandizing hasn't run past $50 per mouth. But watch out for a wily little boy playing coat check. He charged one of my colleagues by the piece, asking $5.75 for two coats and a muffler. So much for innocence. (403 East 12th Street; 212-505-0001.)



Photograph by Kenneth Chen.

★ The Dining Room
You know how you love cooking those intimate dinners at home for just you and your close friends? Oh, you don't. Well, then don't you wish you were at one? This scrumptious example of turning lemons into lemon soufflé not only transforms an awkward layout into a series of cozy hideaways but it gets you all warm and snuggly with hearty American cuisine that surprisingly weighs less than the conversations around it. • 154 E. 79th St. (212-327-2500). (M-E)

District
At this new hotel restaurant, David Rockwell's design makes playful reference to the theater-district locale, and Sam DeMarco's menus make mouthwatering reference to the fun, original food he popularized downtown at First. For breakfast, there's the Scramble (smoked salmon, cream-cheese fondue, latkes, and dill-caper gremolata). For lunch, "double features" like potato pierogi with a brisket sandwich. Plus a $28 pre-theater dinner and a late-night "mini-bar." • 130 W. 46th St. (212-485-2999). (M)

★ Figs
Until they install one of those restaurants with waiter-masseuses and beds instead of tables, the next best thing in tri-state airport noshing is this 125-seat branch of Todd English's Figs. During flight-delay downtime, curb your air rage with a lively Boston-bibb-and-watercress salad sprinkled with Maytag blue; spaghettini with roasted tomato and toasted breadcrumbs; or a killer to-go flatbread pizza topped with figs, prosciutto, and Gorgonzola in a box designed to fit your seat-back tray. • Central Terminal Bldg., La Guardia Airport, Queens (718-446-7600). (I-M)

★ Fleur de Sel
Chef Cyril Renaud wanted his first restaurant to be a personal statement. So he hung his own watercolors, painted the menu covers, and named the place after the highly prized, hand-harvested sea salt that's native to Brittany, just like him. His $52 prix fixe menu is small and changes daily, so there's no telling when you might see that lobster-avocado salad or venison fillet with juniper berries and orange zest again. • 5 E. 20th St. (212-460-9100). (M-E)

★ 44 & X Hell's Kitchen
John Tesar's inspired new American cooking packs this handsome room nightly with Hell's Kitchen locals and clued-in theatergoers, happy to find such good food and friendly service this far west. After feeding Wall Street warriors downtown at Vine, Tesar's traded in some of his fancier flourishes for a renewed focus on down-home dishes like rich and gooey mac-and-cheese, crispy buttermilk fried chicken and chive waffles, and individual meat loaf swathed in tomato sauce. • 622 Tenth Ave., at 44th St. (212-977-1170). (M-E)

★ Gnocco Caffe
Co-owner Pierluigi Palazzo named this East Village café after the traditional Modenese snack of crispy, puffy fried dough, usually served with prosciutto di Parma. But just to complicate matters, the gently-priced menu also offers two versions of gnocchetti (an entirely different, equally delicious thing), plus well-dressed, unusually fresh salads and an unassuming pork

tenderloin lavished with Parmigiano-Reggiano shavings and an aged-balsamic emulsion. • 337 E. 10th St. (212-677-1913). (I)

☆ Grand Sichuan Int'l Midtown

Each successive branch of this Szechuan chainlet has become progressively glitzier, culminating in this location's chandeliers and wall-to-wall carpeting. What separates this one from the kung pao pack is menu oddities like the eight dishes inspired by a Chinese TV show and a super-spicy category called "Mao's home cooking." (The chairman liked his chili peppers—who knew?) • 745 Ninth Ave., nr. 50th St. (212-582-2288). (I)

★ Hampton Chutney Co.

SoHo can be a soulless place, not to mention maddeningly expensive, and in desperate need of good karma and cheap, delicious grub. This eighteen-seat offshoot of a popular Amagansett enterprise satisfies both criteria with its Indian-chant soundtrack, gurgling fountain, and addictive dosas and uttapa made from rice-and-lentil flour and stuffed or topped with everything from traditional spiced-potato-masala to untraditional tuna and avocado ($6.50 to $10.50). Plus daily soups, chai teas, cardamom coffee, and fudgy brownies. • 68 Prince St. (212-226-9996). (I) ($)

Hudson Cafeteria

The room is big, dark, incredibly handsome, cavernous, more humming than boisterous, unfocused but friendly. Think of Hudson Cafeteria as a community center for the privileged. And while the food tries to be more ambitious than that of its downtown counterpart, Canteen, the stuff that makes the surprisingly diverse customers happiest is beef stew, macaroni and cheese (without the foie gras), and a banana split. It's become very canny to claim discomfort with comfort food, but those eating it here want more and couldn't care less. • 356 W. 58th St. (212-554-6500). (M-E)

★ Inside

Charleen Badman used to cook at the Lobster Club, but she always wanted her own place. Now, with the help of Anne Rosenzweig, her former boss and current partner, she's got one. Badman's style of cooking is influenced by her working vacations in places like Italy, where she learned to make ravioli, and Chez Panisse, where she immersed herself in the sort of hyper-seasonal cooking she's brought to this casually elegant dining room, with nothing breaking the $20 barrier. There's a small, appealing wine list, weekend brunch, and for inveterate nibblers unwilling to commit to a full meal, a bar menu offering mussels and Welsh rabbit (providing the gratis papadums and fried plantains won't hold you over). • 9 Jones St. (212-229-9999). (M)

Jimmy's Uptown

Jimmy Martinez's new joint brings a little bit of SoHo to Harlem. The former residential space on Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard has been decorated with half-moon leather banquettes and luminous Lycra lamps. There is foie gras on the menu (served atop sweet calabaza squash); filet mignon with horseradish-flavored grits; and plump, pecan-crusted catfish fillets. Some of Jimmy's culinary experiments are more successful than others, but the hopping uptown scene is worth the trip. • 2207 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. (212-491-4000). (E)

La Palapa

The chef at this friendly East Village oasis grew up in Mexico, under the pervasive culinary spell of cookbook author and avid gardener Diana Kennedy, a family friend. That might account for the menu's reliance on fresh herbs, and its creativity. Rices are flavored with tomato, saffron, and tomatillo; moles concocted from sesame seeds, pumpkin seeds, and guajillo chiles. The skirt steak soaks up its tequila marinade, cactus comes in a casserole, and chiles rellenos float uncharacteristically in tomato broth. • 77 St. Marks Pl. (212-777-2537). (I-M)

Le Souk

On a rapidly gentrifying Alphabet City block, two Egyptian brothers have carved out their own North African niche and accessorized it with Moroccan tile, glowing lanterns, and camel-skin chairs. A Tunisian chef oversees an evolving menu of assorted tajines and couscous, and meze like calves' liver and Merguez sausage. But food is only half the story. Linger long enough to smoke a hookah and admire the belly dancer. • 47 Ave. B (212-777-5454). (I-M) ($)

☆ Le Zinc

Once you open a place like Chanterelle, where do you go from there? If you're Karen and David Waltuck, you head two blocks south and two blocks east to open a casual bistro—the perfect spot to unwind after a long night shaving truffles. The menu, a French framework embellished with Asian, Jewish, and Hungarian highlights, reads like the homespun work of someone who's sown his wild *hautes*: charcuterie, steak-frites, crispy duck wings, Grandma Gaby's stuffed cabbage. A burger, even. And nothing over $19. • 139 Duane St. (212-513-0001). (I-M)

★ Locanda Vini & Olii

A beautifully restored 130-year-old Clinton Hill pharmacy complete with apothecary drawers and rolling ladders right out of Henry Higgins's library is the charming backdrop for this terrific Tuscan restaurant. Two young chefs recruited from Italy turn out uncommon antipasti and salads; main dishes like rabbit civet; and a wealth of exquisitely sauced pastas like carrot maltagliati with fava beans. The excellent house wines are sold "consumption"-style. The bottle is left on the table, you help yourself, and whatever's left is theatrically measured with a homemade stick. It's the most fun you can have in a drugstore without a prescription. • 129 Gates Ave., Brooklyn (718-622-9202). (M)

★ Los Dos Molinos

Not since Drew flashed Dave has Manhattan witnessed a hotter display than the one at Los Dos Molinos—the Union Square branch of the popular Arizona restaurant. The slow, satisfying burn begins with chips and fiery salsa and continues with familiar but superlative Mexican-American fare. Entrées like irresistibly hot "adovada" pork ribs come with rice and beans, a good homemade flour tortilla, and an apology in advance printed on the menu: "Sorry we do not provide a mild sauce, I do not know how to make 'mild,' " reads the chef's mission statement–indemnity clause. • 119 E. 18th St. (212-505-1574). (I-M)

★ Lotus

Everything you wanted from a trendy club-bar-restaurant and less. Less attitude, less discomfort, less elbow contact, and less forgettable food. Lotus is a blooming surprise. A slight kitchiness keeps it warm. Nice guy owners keep it friendly. And chef Richard Farnabe keeps you well fed. Think of the velvet rope outside as a ribbon. And Lotus as a gift. • 409 W. 14th St. (212-243-4420). (M-E)

★ Macelleria

Vegetarians beware: The name is Italian for "butcher shop," which the cozy back room still resembles, and the space used to be a meat locker. But there's much more to chef Jeffrey Edwards's menu than his dry-aged porterhouse for two. Whole peppercorns enliven Gorgonzola salad dressing. Zesty fennel sausages adorn a cannelini-bean stew. Delectable pastas are

Ground Rules

These listings are a selective guide to the city's restaurants, some *New York* advertisers among them. Stars (★) indicate our critics' recommendations, either for outstanding overall quality or in recognition of at least one exceptional feature, and are usually awarded after the restaurant has been formally reviewed. The price guide, admittedly imperfect, is as follows: **(E)** = expensive; **(M)** = moderate; **(I)** = inexpensive. Restaurants listed accept all major credit cards, except where noted; ($) = cash only; "AE only" indicates that American Express is the only accepted card.

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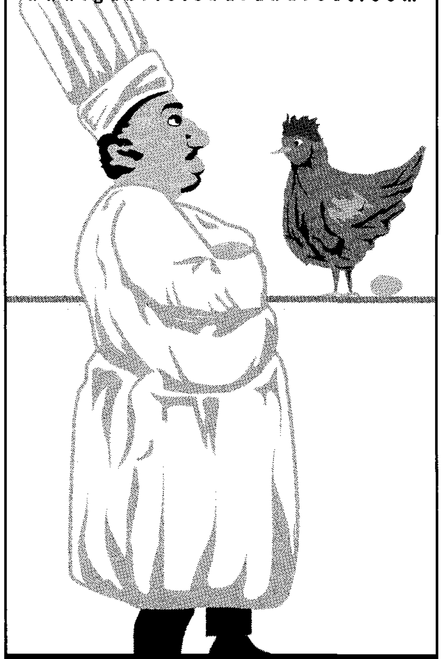

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served with hearty ragus, perfect for fall. • 48 Gansevoort St. (212-741-2555). (M)

☆ Mangiarini
There may be more Italian restaurants on the Upper East Side than there are cannoli on Mulberry Street, but few as bare-boned chic as this one. The designer of the Calvin Klein boutique went commensurately minimalist at this narrow 30-seater, where spaghetti with lemon and basil and sandwiches like prosciutto and melted goat cheese on semolina flatbread are as stylishly stripped down as the décor. • 1593 Second Ave., nr. 83rd St. (212-734-5500). (I)

Marika
Gourmet-starved Upper West Siders may be dazzled by the swanky cruise-ship interior, but the food here is generally unspectacular. The best entrées tend to be the simpler ones, like a plump free-range chicken cooked in a Cabernet sauce, or a salty piece of skate. Most other items are overworked. There are plenty of fancy cocktails, though, a decent raw bar, and a fairly good roster of desserts, including a pistachio soufflé, which isn't an easy thing to find north of Columbus Circle. • 208 W. 70th St. (212-875-8600). (M–E)

MarkJoseph Steakhouse
"Your steak will be out any minute," says our waiter. "I just saw the chef chasing the cow." If that line plus the house specialty—porterhouse for two, three, or four, served family-style and ritually baptized with pooled juices—sounds familiar to habitués of that steak shrine across the river, it's no coincidence. The general manager and a cadre of remarkably friendly, seemingly rehabilitated waiters came straight from Peter Luger, and brought their meal-ending schlag with them. • 261 Water St., nr. Peck Slip (212-277-0020). (M–E)

★ Mary's Fish Camp
Here's a tip for anyone who's ever paced up and down Cornelia Street waiting for a vacant stool at Pearl Oyster Bar: The West Village is now home to *two* sources of world-class lobster rolls, silken clam chowder, and fragrantly moist, herb-stuffed whole fish. One of Pearl's chef-partners left to open this sunny corner spot equipped with a tin ceiling, a curved stainless-steel counter (ten tables, too), and new additions to the Pearl repertoire, like crispy kernel-studded corn fritters and a lush, sherry-enhanced lobster potpie. • 246 W. 4th St. (646-486-2185). (M)

★ Merge
Chef Sam DeMarco and his partners have a knack for creating neighborhood restaurants good enough to leave your neighborhood for. At Merge, in the former Indigo space, they've done it again. A cool, comfortable room, a friendly staff, a festive mood, signature "tiny tini" cocktails, and DeMarco's inspired multiculti neo-American cooking are an irresistable draw for locals as well as interlopers. Sunday evenings, "Gino's *Soprano* Style Dinner," a $25 prix fixe Italian-American feast, is an absolute steal. • 142 W. 10th St. (212-691-7757). (M) AE only

Mirchi
An up-to-date Indian restaurant that takes the street out of street food. The main attraction here is an open kitchen equipped with two *tawas*. The large saucer-shaped griddles that look like cast-iron gongs are used to prepare traditional Indian street food like tak-a-tak, a heavily spiced stir-fry of chopped vegetables and herbs, accessorized with chicken, lamb, or chicken liver, and served like tapas with little KFC-style dinner rolls. • 29 Seventh Ave. So. (212-414-0931). (I–M)

NL
NL claims to be the first Dutch restaurant to open in Manhattan since Peter Stuyvesant's time. This may or may not be true, but given the tepid reputation Dutch food has developed over the past 350 years, NL is a minor revelation. The tiny storefront space looks like it's been lifted directly from some clean, modernist precinct of Amsterdam itself. The food's equally well packaged, especially an exotic version of hare stew, and the herring tartare. • 169 Sullivan St. (212-387-8801). (M)

☆ Orsay
The new version of *The Exorcist* isn't nearly as chilling as what Jean de Noyer must have gone through ridding the demons from this place. But from the ash of Mortimer's musty chicken hash, Orsay has risen, a brasserie swirling with seductive arches and good cheer, giving the Upper East Side the kind of French tickle it sorely needs. The former regulars never had it so good. Do you think they'd know the diff? • 1057 Lexington Ave., at 75th St. (212-517-6400). (M)

Panino'teca 275
Sometimes Smith Street's great unfed masses crave something they can't find at any one of their cherished bistros. Something light. Something simple. Something delish. To sate those appetites, Kenneth Munz—in between action-packed shifts as Mercer Kitchen's sous-chef—helps his wife, Dianna, press bresaola-and-pecorino panini and assemble truffle-cauliflower bruschetta at their comfortable, attractive panini and wine bar, perfect for lazy lingerers. • 275 Smith St., nr. Sackett St., Brooklyn (718-237-2728). (I–M) ($)

Thrill of the Grill

Nothing says "summer's coming" better than the smell of charred meat wafting through the air—a fragrance that's sure to lure a steady stream of carnivores to **Five Points**, which has just installed its seasonal sidewalk grill and café. Chef Marc Meyer and his team brave the volatile elements to barbecue vittles like footlong hot dogs, head-on Gulf shrimp, citrus-marinated poussin, and, for the outnumbered vegetarian, corn on the cob with chili and lime. (31 Great Jones Street; 212-253-5700.)

★ Picasso Cafe
Chef-owner Michele Colonna's pizza has cultivated a loyal following including connoisseurs like Jim Lahey, owner of Sullivan Street Bakery and a trusted arbiter of all oven-baked things—and it's no wonder: His pies are superbly charred, ultra-thin-crusted gems arrayed with homemade mozzarella, a mildly sweet tomato sauce, and the perfect ratio of toppings to crust. There's also a growing fan base for his bruschetta heaped with arugula and ripe tomato, hefty sandwiches on freshly baked focaccia, pasta, and entrées like grilled lamb chops with sage and balsamic vinegar. • 43 E. 29th St. (212-696-4488). (I–M)

★ Pipa
Doug Rodriguez has done Nuevo Latino at Patria and Chicama. Now he's tackling old-world Spanish (sort of). A field trip to Galicia yielded dozens of recipes for tapas, casseroles, soups, and flatbreads, all of which undergo subtle and delicious transformation in the chef's inventive hands. To wit: bocarones in escabeche with almond-crusted queso de cabra, crispy anchovies wrapped in sage leaves, and churros with warm chocolate dipping sauce for dessert. Much more radical is the conversion of the old Parlour Cafe into a seductive Iberian oasis with serrano ham hanging from beams and walls studded with enough shells to stock Sanibel Island. • 38 E. 19th St. (212-677-2233). (M)

☆ Quartino
All that separates this rustic Italian osteria and wine bar from the South Street Seaport is a few short blocks and one major mind-set. It's all about the good life, Italian-style, which of course involves wine, served by the mini-carafe; delectable cured meats and imported cheeses; pasta; pizza; strong espresso; and convivial conversation. But amazingly, no smoking. The owners may be Italian, but they're also (with one or two exceptions) doctors. • 21 Peck Slip (212-349-4433). (I–M)

Rothmann's Steakhouse & Grill
Chef Robert Dickert, an alumnus of Bobby Van's and Roslyn's Bryant & Cooper, might have a genetically predisposed way with dry-aged beefsteak—his grandmother was Peter Luger's niece. He carries on the family tradition with a $132 porterhouse for four. And he breaks it too with "Asian fried calamari" and something called West Coast chicken. • 3 E. 54th St. (212-319-5500). (E)

Sabor
As the abiding popularity of tapas proves, grazing never goes out of style. Customize a tiered tray of pan-Latino nibbles like shrimp empanaditas, octopus salad, smoked-chicken croquettes, and tuna seviche and watch the Upper West Side roll by, in all its dog-walking, stroller-pushing glory. • 462 Amsterdam Ave., nr. 82nd St. (212-579-2929). (I–M)

★ Sandro's
Though neither as ingenious as Babbo nor as familiar as Baldoria, Sandro's cooks the kind of forthright, robust Italian food you wish you knew how to make in your own home. In a room as basic as his flavors are direct, bucatini amatriciana resonates, snapper satiates, lemon pasta invigorates, and the fried artichokes tickle at least two senses. • 200 Ninth Ave., nr. 22nd St. (212-633-8033). (M)

Shangrila
Home to four momo-slinging kitchens at last count, the East Village may well be New York's Little—make that tiny—Tibet. This particular source of savory dumplings, flavorful noodle soups, dense steamed buns, and a handful of Japanese recipes the chef picked

Photographs by Kenneth Chen.

up during a stint at Honmura An is owned by the extended family behind Himalayan Vision, a clothing-and-gifts shop two doors down. The stylish design (bamboo dropped ceiling, concrete-and-wood floor) and appealing menu reveal that a good eye and a discerning palate run in the family. So, we presume, does the secret behind that killer hot sauce. • 129 Second Ave. (212-387-7908). (I–M)

★ Shelly's New York
The latest restaurant Shelly Fireman has created in his own image inhabits the space that was originally an Art Deco–era Horn & Hardart Automat. Only the assimilative Fireman would offer towering shellfish platters alongside newfangled chicken chow mein, barbecued ribs, and a burger audaciously crowned with seared foie gras and make it work. • 104 W. 57th St. (212-245-2422). (M–E)

★ Strip House
The Glazier Group and chef David Walzog, the same team responsible for Tapika, Michael Jordan's, and our slightly lower life expectancy, take a Gallic approach to the New York steakhouse menu with starters like a five-ounce foie gras torchon and sides like goose-fat potatoes and truffled cream spinach. (Try ordering that at Gallagher's.) Meanwhile, designer David Rockwell has given the former Asti's space a saucy new look to go with its naughty new name. • 13 E. 12th St. (212-328-0000). (M–E)

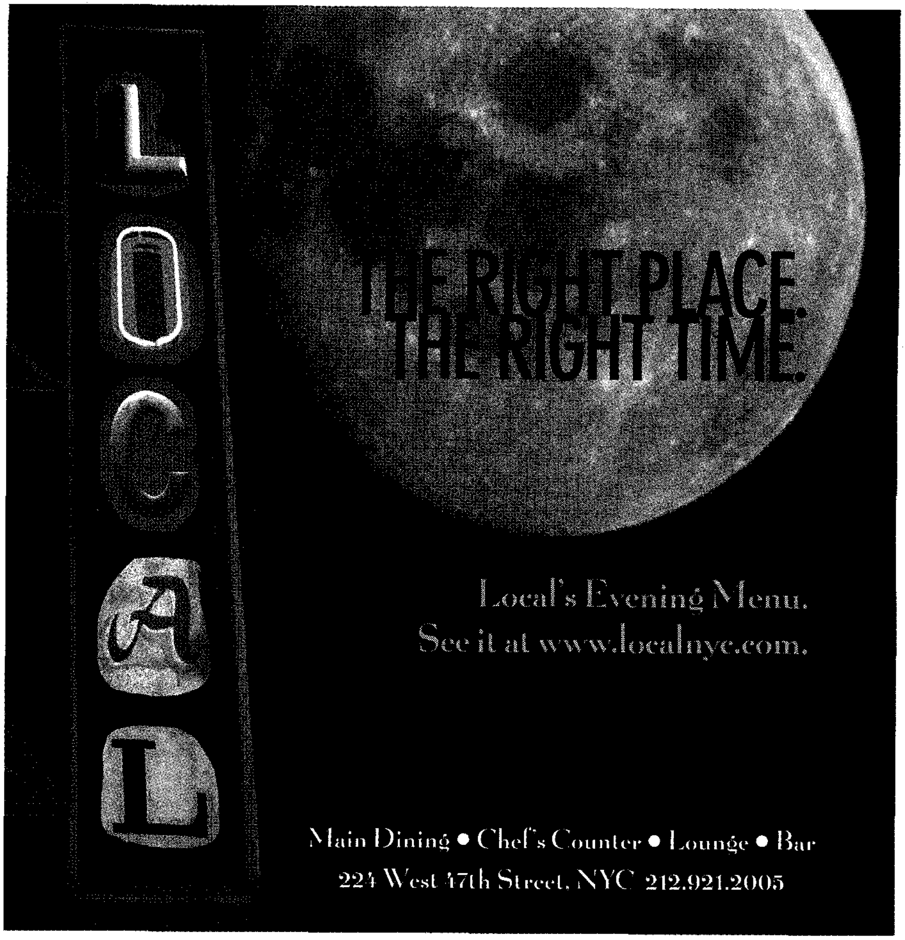
Sushi Jones
In the interest of appealing to a populace that likes the idea of sushi but can't stomach the thought of raw fish, this quick-service café and takeout shop expands on the Japanese theme with rolls that are more Toledo than Tokyo: maple-salmon, barbecued-chicken, and grilled-portobello-and-goat-cheese, for instance. Children who shrink from wasabi can opt for PB&J or tuna-fish-on-white-bread "rolls." And for purists who see no reason to tinker with tradition, there's an assortment of "classic" rolls like eel-and-cucumber and yellowtail-scallion. • 17 E. 17th St. (646-230-0033). (I)

★ Todd English's Olives NY
Chef Todd English has a genius for artful, Hungry-Man dishes. He stuffs his pastas with delectable fillings (sweet chestnuts, shredded veal) and slathers them with creamy cheeses. He moulds cupolas of foie gras flan, builds pagodas of hanger steak, constructs pill boxes of tuna tartare with crunchy shrimps buried at the base. It's delicious, but a little overwhelming, especially if you tag on thrombotic desserts like the peppermint bombe (creamy chocolate with mint syrup inside). The cramped, frenetic space (in the lobby of the Union Square W Hotel) makes lunchtimes a more restful experience. • 201 Park Ave. So. (212-353-8345). (E)

Town
Geoffrey Zakarian isn't new to chic hotel restaurants. He made his name cooking at "44," after all. But now, as chef-owner of the sleekly luxurious restaurant inside the new Chambers hotel, he's making every effort to break away from the boutique bunch with dishes like cod "pot roast"; veal tongue Basque-style; halibut with pork belly and black trumpets; even an updated pastrami sandwich. A boon for the frequent flyer: he plans to change his menu monthly. • 15 W. 56th St. (212-582-4445). (M–E)

★ Triomphe
Now that 44th Street west of Fifth is hotel row, the venerable Iroquois has emerged from its midlife stodge with a $13 million makeover and a pocket-size restaurant. Perhaps the prices could be sweeter, but there is refreshing pride in the serving crew, and much to savor on Steven Zobel's menu: tender braised rabbit, oysters simmered in Vermouth cream, sautéed chicken livers, and a commendably serious steak. • 49 W. 44th St. (212-453-4233). (M–E)

★ Vaux Bistro
At the more affordable, family-friendly reincarnation of what used to be Vaux, the menu reads rustic French, with daily specials like coq au vin, beef stew, and bouillabaisse (all $16), plus all the bistro classics we've come to expect: Frisée salad with meaty lardons and hot garlic croutons. Potato-and-



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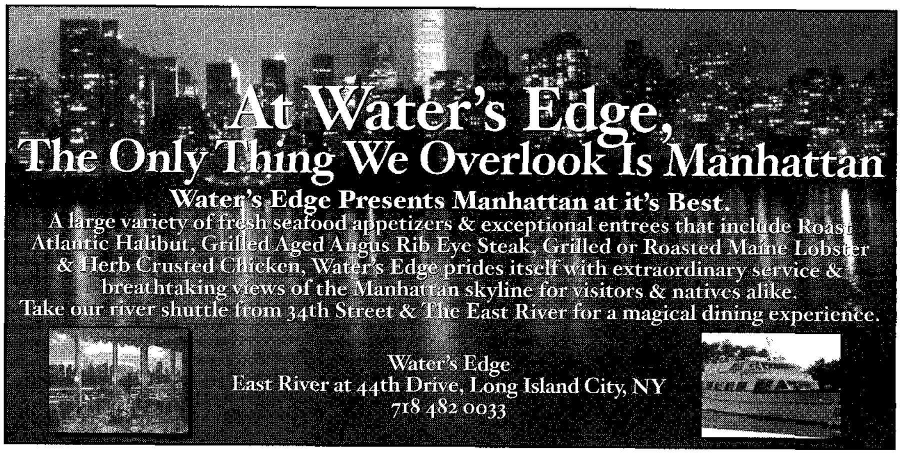
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leek soup. Terrine de canard. Mussels with addictive first-rate frites. And a chocolate-caramel bread pudding that will make you regret finishing them. • 278 Fifth Ave. nr. 1st St., Brooklyn (718-499-1433). (M)

★ Viareggio
At first glance, there's little to distinguish this dining room from countless others. But the kitchen's another story. Chef Donato Deserio's deft touch with pastas like creamless rigatoni alla vodka reinvigorates old standards, and entrées like a subtle Parmigiano-Reggiano-crusted chicken breast in white wine taste almost new. As does the *amuse-bouche* of spicy tomato salsa, served with crispy fried- cheese wafers. • 1347 Second Ave., at 71st St. (212-585-2900). (M)

Virot
Before opening the restaurant at the new Dylan hotel, replete with twenty-foot coffered ceilings and grand fireplace, Didier Virot toiled away under Jean-Georges Vongerichten at JoJo and Jean Georges. Now he's serving $49 prix fixe meals of his own design ($75 for the tasting), featuring the luxurious likes of scallops baked in the shell with sea urchin, and broiled crispy squab with oatmeal porcini cake. Book a room, and see what he has in mind for breakfast. • 52 E. 41st St. (646-658-0266). (E)

★ Wallsé
Who knew veal goulash could be elegant? Kurt Gutenbrunner's version is an artful mound of tender meat you almost regret toppling. And though dishes like tafelspitz and wiener schnitzel seem like a culinary memoir, the guiding principle here is less goulash than Greenmarket. Local farmers supply Gutenbrunner with lemon thyme for his pike, heirloom tomatoes for his lamb salad, and the sweet strawberries that garnish his elderflower sorbet. Don't miss the quark dumplings. • 344 W. 11th St. (212-352-2300). (M-E)

Manhattan

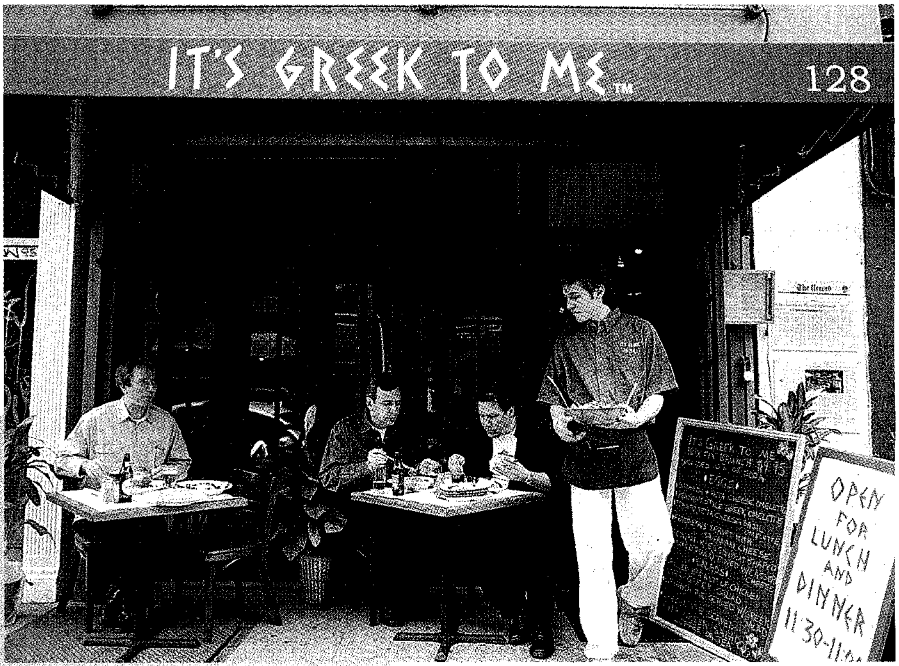
Lower New York

★ Aquagrill
Ever since we tasted chef-owner Jeremy Marshall's inspired falafel-crusted salmon, the notion of a naked pink fillet has been tough to swallow. But despite the high level of cooking, an offbeat and well-priced wine list, and unexpected grace notes like a welcoming *amuse-bouche* and complementary petits fours, it's still a rollicking neighborhood spot, where you can park yourself at the lively bar and watch the dexterous oyster shucker in action. • 210 Spring St. (212-274-0505). (M-E)

Opening

Grecian Formula

A sixth branch of **It's Greek to Me**, a north-Jersey chainlet, has opened in the East Village space recently vacated by Black-Eyed Suzie's, and that cozy vegetarian kitchen's cluttered bric-a-brac has been replaced by the prototypical blue-and-white color scheme, down to the panoramic photos of Aegean island life. The food, though rarely deviating from the skordalia-and-saganaki norm, is fresh and flavorful and a great value—especially the heaping souvlaki platters, which come with grilled pepper and tomato, tsatsiki, and lemon-and-oregano-dusted fries, for $8.95 to $14.95. (128 East 7th Street; 212-473-0220.)



Photograph by Kenneth Chen.

★ Bo Ky
There are 30 soups at Bo-Ky. The best way to order them is by number. Don't read closely to see what's in them. And don't ask. You don't want to know. Whether the meat is pork chop or beef belly or chicken leg, just savor the smells wafting up from those bowls of Chinese, Cambodian and Vietnamese home cooking. It is tremendous soup, in size, flavor, and content. And the prices are pocket change. • 80 Bayard St. (212-406-2292). (I) ($)

★ Bouley Bakery
Love him or hate him, there's no denying that the famously obstreperous David Bouley—bouncing between this kitchen and Danube—gets the job done. And his loyal clientele gratefully lap it up in the ethereal form of degustation menus revolving around superlative seasonal ingredients like skate steamed with fresh chamomile, say, or organic baby lamb with eggplant moussaka. • 120 W. Broadway (212-964-2525). (M-E)

★ Canteen
It's not that the food is bad; just that it can't compete with the furniture (the orange-wool-upholstered chairs in particular). Executive chef Matthew Kenney has veered off his Mediterranean path to make people-pleasing comfort food like macaroni and cheese, rendered here with Wisconsin Asiago. An abbreviated menu is available late at night, when those fabulous chairs are most in demand. • 142 Mercer St. (212-431-7676). (M)

★ City Hall
Chef-owner Henry Meer may be imagineering Old New York, with back-lit photos of bygone street life, but he can't help refining it, too. The triple-tier "Chrysler" shellfish highrise is global gluttony via the jet stream. Chesapeake she-crab soup is creamy perfection. But go for the marvelous double steak on the bone, a behemoth served stunningly rare. • 131 Duane St. (212-227-7777). (M-E)

Divine Bar
The jewel-toned Financial District branch of the popular Turtle Bay bar and lounge serves the same extensive selection of wine, and a similar menu of appetizer-size plates. Selections include a barbecued-buffalo sandwich, shrimp satay with hoisin sauce, and a wild-mushroom quesadilla. • 55 Liberty St., second floor (212-791-WINE). (I-M)

Gigino Trattoria
The rustic Italian fare in this barnlike TriBeCa trattoria ranges from brick-oven pizza and calzones to salmon with broccoli rabe. The casual atmosphere and inventive peasant food attract a loyal neighborhood following. • 323 Greenwich St. (212-431-1112). (M)

The Greatest Bar on Earth
This, the most casual component of the Windows on the World complex, has become a popular meeting spot for downtown office workers and, of course, tourists. The view, obviously, can't be beat, and the snacky menu includes bites like fried calamari, barbecued ribs, and sushi. • 1 World Trade Center, 107th floor (212-524-7000). (M)

★ Montrachet
No matter how many more restaurants the indefatigable Drew Nieporent has up his sleeve, this one's his baby—attractive, lively, and one of the first truly great restaurants in lower Manhattan. There's lunch on Fridays—try the Roquefort-and-pear salad—and dinner Monday through Saturday. The wine list is killer. • 239 W. Broadway, nr. White St. (212-219-2777). (E)

★ Next Door Nobu
Set in a stunningly clever David Rockwell–designed room as homespun as it is elegant, Nobu Matsuhisa's simpler version of his South American–flecked Asian cooking matches its décor by making Nobu's genius even more accessible. The only thing we'd change is the no-reservations policy. Come early, come late, come on Monday. Come Saturday, if you're nuts. • 105 Hudson St. (212-334-4445). (M-E)

Omen
Step off this quiet SoHo side street, and you're suddenly transported to Kyoto—a feeling that's reinforced by the traditional menu and decorative calligraphy and ceramics. • 113 Thompson St. (212-925-8923). (M-E) AE only

★ Peasant
Peasant is exactly right. From its stunningly backlit brick-walled kitchen that features only open-fire cooking to its incredibly appealing Tuscan menu, chef-owner Frank De Carlo has reason to bust his buttons every night, and you have almost too many reasons to undo a couple of yours. And thanks to some recent soundproofing, you no longer need to shout to get your share of impeccably al dente pastas, and meltingly tender osso buco in a risottolike nest of farro. • 194 Elizabeth St. (212-965-9511). (M)

★ 71 Clinton Fresh Food
Is there much call for Scottish salmon wrapped in avocado at the intersection of Clinton and Rivington Streets? Well, yes, judging by the hungry crowd cooling its heels at the bar. Jean Georges alum Wylie Dufresne cooks seemingly complicated, easy-to-eat food like beer-braised short ribs geometrically sculpted into a perfect square; and parsley-root purée with a

little parsley-root raft of lump crabmeat. (To eat, capsize and stir.) The chef's dad, a warm and punny presence on the floor, compiled the winning wine list. • 71 Clinton St. (212-614-6960). (M)

★ Vine
It will take a lot of duck confit with sweet-potato hash to make a village in the canyons of Wall Street. But the bold pioneers at Vine are game to gamble. Their bull-market menu is big on seafood like lobster pan roast with corn fritters and coconut-curried grilled shrimp. There's a quick-service café and grocery next door, and private party space (plus extra lunch seating) downstairs in what used to be, and still resembles, bank vaults. • 25 Broad St. (212-344-8463). (E)

★ Wild Blue
It sounds like a bar right outside the NASA compound, but in fact, it's an intimate, upretentious room that doesn't try to compete with the famous view. Chef Michael Lomonaco's menu is solid, superlative American, with a touch of the steak house in side dishes like creamed spinach and butternut-squash hash. Don't wait for a special occasion to take the 107-flight elevator ride. • 1 World Trade Center, 107th floor (212-524-7107). (E)

Windows on the World
Yes, tourists love it. But Michael Lomanaco's sophisticated American food, including stout-braised Black Angus short ribs and lobster potpie with truffle cream manages to steal some attention away from the main attraction, that spectacular view of Manhattan Island. Be sure to take advantage of the restaurant's 60,000-bottle wine cellar. • 1 World Trade Center, 107th floor (212-524-7000). (E)

Below 14th Street, East

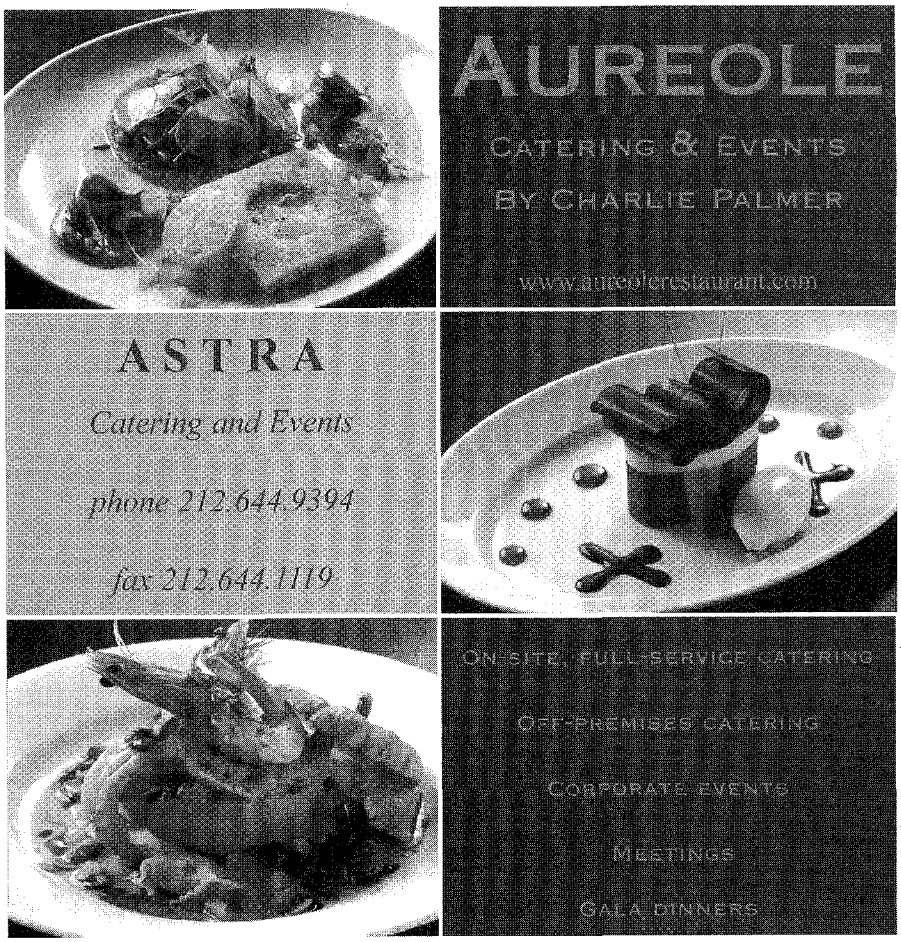
★ Five Points
Every neighborhood needs a place with a good bar, a serious kitchen, and zero pretensions. NoHo has one in this Med-American restaurant, where a split log running down the center of the dining room conveys a babbling brook. Zen though that may sound, chef Marc Meyer's hearty cooking is more boldly passionate than coolly contemplative. Duck-and-foie gras sausage and wood-oven roasted Magret duck show enough spikiness to make you look down and go "hmmmm" before you go back to the conversation. • 31 Great Jones St. (212-253-5700). (M)

★ Il Bagatto
Though so dark the menu can hardly be read and so deliriously energized you'd best be in the mood for a nonvintage bottle of red, Il Bagatto piles on super pastas, salads, and antipasti as full of sharp left hooks as that wine and as cheap as the hangover you'll have tomorrow. • 192 E. 2nd St. (212-228-0977). (I-M)

Komodo
Mexican-Asian fusion cooking is such a natural pairing that it's a shame you can't find more guacamole spring rolls around town like the ones served here with roasted-tomatillo salsa. Some of the descriptions of the dishes on the menu may sound a little busy, but nearly everything works, including calamari stuffed with huitalacoche and a miso-cider-glazed center-cut pork chop with an apple-chorizo stuffing. The room is loungey cool, but owner Gary Chiappa works it like a neighborhood mom-and-pop shop. • 186 Ave. A (212-529-2658). (M)

Osso Buco
Popular Italian restaurant on a much-traveled Village corridor serving family-style portions of the eponymous house specialty, Caesar salad, fried calamari, and T-bone steak. • 88 University Pl. (212-645-4525). Also, 1662 Third Ave., at 93rd St. (426-5422). (M)

★ Prune
There's not a wrinkled plum in sight at this American bistro. But chef Gabrielle Hamilton's childhood nickname indicates the sort of unpretentious home cooking at which she excels, a grab bag of eccentric, multicultural influences that is, at heart, American—as any place whose quirky bar menu



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includes Triscuits alongside serrano ham with fresh figs must be. Minus the traditional categories for appetizers, main courses, and sides, the menu gives as prominent placement to vegetables like creamed corn and roasted beets as to the more entrée-ish capon on a savory garlic crouton, or the pastrami duck breast with a rye-flavored, fried-shallot omelet. • 54 E. 1st St. (212-677-6221). (M)

Siren
Aside from some strange and funny cabaret acts and a D.J. spinning to a boisterous young crowd, the spotlight at this East Village mini supper club is on chef Patrick Fromm's accomplished French-and-Asian-accented American cooking. Try the triple-tiered appetizer trays the menu calls "trilogies," which include a choice of everything from spicy "lollipop" wings to foie gras to sashimi, or opt for more substantial fare like homemade tagliolini with wild mushrooms and barbecued filet mignon. • 12 St. Marks Place (212-995-9100). (M–E)

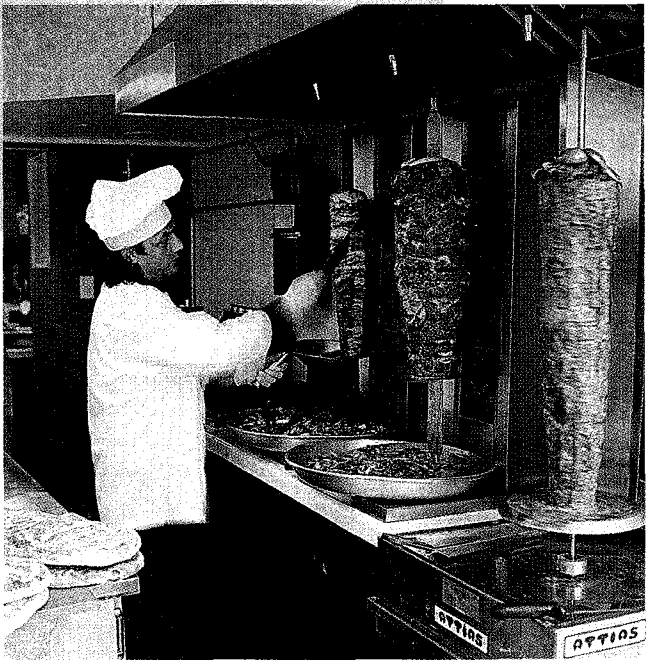
Below 14th Street, West

★ Blue Hill
Alex Urena's seasonal American menu draws on his cooking tour of France and Spain, which is where he picked up the haute habit of garnishing food with foam (to wit: a delicious asparagus soup with Parmesan froth). But despite a certain culinary trendiness, the atmosphere couldn't be more congenial or the service less pretentious. The room is pretty, too, comfortable and sophisticated, and the three-sided limestone bar accommodates diners and drinkers alike. • 75 Washington Pl. (212-539-1776). (M–E)

Takeout

Noonday Express

Suleyman Secer (pictured), chef-owner of the Sultan restaurant, has spent the past two years sating the Upper East Side's appetite for Turkish staples like kebabs, sigara boregi, and lahmacun—all of which are now available downtown at **Sultan II Fast Food**, a takeout spin-off that's been drawing lunchtime crowds since it opened three weeks ago. After you check out the traditional vegetable salads and spit-roasted meats, venture to the ovens in back for fresh-baked pide and savory pies stuffed with spinach, mushrooms, and tangy kasseri cheese. (16 East 23rd Street; 212-982-5444.)



Photograph by Lenora Gim.

★ Lupa
We love this down-home Roman trattoria and not just for Mario Batali's celebration of odd animal parts and Italian delicatessen, or for partner Joe Bastianich's bid to bring depth and finesse to a casual Village joint's wine service. We like the mood, the food, and the gentle prices, but so do legions of tuned-in New Yorkers. It's almost as tough a sanctum to crack as its pricier sibling, Babbo. • 170 Thompson St. (212-982-5089). (M)

★ Meigas
The décor is a little goofy and the location, on Hudson Street, in the Siberia of West SoHo, is a bust. But chef Luis Bollos's kitchen produces the best Spanish cuisine (Galician, actually) in town. In his hands, hefty dishes like braised oxtail croquettes and roast suckling pig appear light, almost candied. His gazpacho—a light confection, loaded with Maine lobster—makes the usual approximations of this dish look like crankcase oil. Trendy Iberian jellies and foams are mostly relegated to dessert, of which a wondrous chocolate layer ganache is best. • 350 Hudson St. (212-627-5800). (M–E)

Monte's
Since 1918, this Village trattoria has weathered the nouvelle-Italian storms and the coming of Mario Batali and continues to serve its traditional brand of old-world fare in a neighborhood still charmingly populated by cafés that predate Starbucks. All the familiar bases are covered, from pastina en brodo and zuppa di pesce to chicken parmigiana, tortellini alla romana, and on Mondays, osso buco alla Milanese. • 97 Macdougal St. (212-228-9194). (M)

Osteria Fiorentina
Live piano and violin music lend this casual Italian restaurant that old-time Village ambience. The menu offers standards like risotti, open ravioli, zuppa di clams, and veal chops. • 281 Bleecker St. (212-633-2941). (M)

★ Peanut Butter & Co.
Smooth or chunky is only the beginning: Savor the sticky stuff 21 different ways at this kitschy café, where you're transported back to elementary school with one bite of "ants on a log," celery sticks slathered with the peanut butter of your choice and studded with raisins. Request your Elvis (grilled peanut butter, banana, honey, bacon) on whole wheat if you must, though we're certain the King would disapprove. There must be a mom in the kitchen; sandwiches come with chips and carrot sticks, and they'll even cut off the crusts for you. • 240 Sullivan St. (212-677-3995). (I–M)

14th–42nd Streets, East Side

Bambou
A hint of the tropics on 14th Street: ambitiously nouvelle renderings of Caribbean cuisine, like crab cakes with avocado and molasses or eggplant soup with coconut and curry amid a relaxing, palm-fronded bar and dining room. • 243 E. 14th St. (212-358-0012). (M)

★ Bolo
Spanish food doesn't possess the big flavors that have attracted so many Americans to southwestern fare, but chef Bobby Flay has the audacity to inject some and the skill to make it work. In an unfortunate room that reminds you of Gaudí by way of Pee-wee Herman, items as modest-sounding as baby clams steamed in green-onion broth, tuna brushed with honey, and paella with saffron rice exhibit pure bravado. • 23 E. 22nd St. (212-228-2200). (E)

★ Chicama
Douglas Rodriguez is so disarmingly inventive that he could serve his spectacular seviches, his drippingly seductive goat stew, and his daunting, did-Mom-ever-make-it-like-this? suckling pig from a lean-to in Union Square and there'd be no room left for the other vendors. Instead, he inhabits a rustic dream hut that takes you somewhere north of Brazil, east of Mardi Gras, and south of Heaven. • 35 E. 18th St. (212-505-2233). (M–E)

★ City Bakery
No one comes close to Maury Rubin at satisfying our grown-up snacking impulse. Heavenly tarts, perfectly textured cookies and brownies, lusciously tart lemonades, ultra-thick and creamy hot chocolate—even homemade marshmallows—beckon irresistibly from the counter. Pre-dessert, there are inspired sandwiches like roasted pear and ricotta salata and the only salad bar we obsess over. • 22 E. 17th St. (212-366-1414). (I–M)

Commodore Grill at the Grand Hyatt Hotel
Commuters and business travelers can enter this formal hotel restaurant directly from Grand Central Terminal, for a quick drink in the cigar bar or a full meal from the French-influenced American menu. • 42nd St. and Lexington Ave. (212-850-5999). (M–E)

Meli Melo
This cheerful neighborhood spot offers a very reasonable fixed-price dinner—$31.50 for four courses. The seafood-heavy French menu has Asian and Mediterranean touches in dishes like seared tuna with baby bok choy and rack of lamb with couscous. • 110 Madison Ave., nr. 29th St. (212-686-5551). (M)

Mi
A talented team of cooks with impressive-sounding résumés (Mercer Kitchen, Hatsuhana) collaborate on a menu including sushi and sashimi, pad Thai, Malaysian spare ribs, and Korean bibimbob at this four-flavor pan-Asian restaurant. • 66 Madison Ave., nr. 27th St. (212-252-8888). (M–E)

★ Patria
Spicy Latin American fare brought to you in a festive high-energy atmosphere. The three-story dining room is bright and airy by day and warm and earthy by night. And you won't find a Cuban sandwich like this anywhere else in New York. Or Havana, for that matter. • 250 Park Ave. So., nr. 20th St. (212-777-6211). (E)

★ Tabla
It's diminishing to categorize Floyd Cardoz's clean Goan-spiced Maine crab cake or his exquisite pairing of seared foie gras with a black-pepper-and-pear compote as nouvelle Delhi; he's gone and forged a deliriously satisfying union of this country's produce with the strong, heady spices and bewitchingly pungent condiments of his homeland. A less expensive menu at the Bread Bar downstairs aspires less to break new ground than to rekindle old taste memories—specifically Cardoz's, including his mom's recipe for beef assad, otherwise known as "Indian pot roast." • 11 Madison Ave. (212-889-0667). (M–E)

★ Tocqueville
At the loveliest new mom and pop shop in town, Marco Moreira and Jo-Ann Markovitzky have taken

what they've learned from a decade of catering and added to it all the things they couldn't do in someone else's home to come up with a gently idiosyncratic nook that will take about twenty minutes to charm you. • 15 E. 15th St. (212-647-1515). (M–E)

✩ Veritas

Does the wine list make the restaurant? Luckily, if you've got a chef like Scott Bryan whipping up arctic-char carpaccio with warm fingerling potato salad and a sublime, marrow-and-wine-fortified fillet of beef, it doesn't have to. His elegant American fare ($68 prix fixe only) perfectly complements the massive cellar, a joint obsession of the owners, who seem to take intense pleasure in sharing their private collection with the paying public. • 43 E. 20th St. (212-353-3700). (E)

14th–42nd Streets, West Side

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar

This national chain invades Manhattan's freshly scrubbed and reinvented 42nd Street with an eager-to-please, affordable menu heavy on burgers, steak, and fajitas. • 234 W. 42nd St. (212-391-7414). (I–M)

★ The Red Cat

Not every artist is starving, and the ones with bank accounts and hearty appetites would do well to make this their home away from home among the West Chelsea galleries. Hanging lanterns, barn siding, and artwork contribute to the funky décor, and the bar is the roomy, welcoming sort that solo diners find appealing. It's hard to find a clunker on the Med-American menu. The quick saute of zucchini with toasted almonds is something your mother would never have imagined—a vegetable that could spoil your appetite. • 227 Tenth Ave., nr. 23rd St. (212-242-1122). (M)

Simply Pasta

Perfectly situated for pretheater, this moderately priced Northern Italian restaurant has a specialty martini list, and offers such dependable, fresh fare as Caesar salad, osso buco, and pastas—over two dozen of them. • 120 W. 41st St. (212-391-0805). (I)

World Yacht Dining Cruises

Take an out-of-town visitor to see the sights—all of them—and sup on a selection from the "Best of New York" menu: featuring dishes based on recipes from the Sea Grill's Ed Brown and Aquavit's Marcus Samuelsson among others. Jacket required. • Pier 81, W. 41st St. and the Hudson River (212-630-8100). (E)

43rd–56th Streets, East Side

Avra

Just as they are uptown at sister restaurant Trata, Fulton Street-fresh whole fish are priced here by the pound and described on the menu the way some restaurants' wine lists like to talk about their wines. *Barbounia*, for example, is a "Mediterranean delicacy that tends to be bony but flavorful." Elsewhere on the menu, spinach pie goes Gallic as spanakopita napoleon and grape leaves get an unexpected stuffing of raw salmon, tuna, and cucumber. • 141 E. 48th St. (212-759-8550). (M–E)

Café Centro

A big, shiny brasserie-cum-café in the lobby of the MetLife Building; there's inventive cooking going on here, and the joint is as fun and good as non-expensive midtown gets. In the loud little Beer Bar, get one of the best hamburgers in town. Closed Sunday. • 200 Park Ave., at 45th St. (212-818-1222). (M)

★ Della Femina

It might be easier to score a table here than at the infamous ad man's East Hampton address, but don't read too much into that: the souped-up seasonal American menu tastes just as good in the 212 area code. There's a little country and a little city in his cold corn soup with black truffle coulis, and Dover sole "fish sticks" with a caviar remoulade. And you can almost smell Georgica beach in the lobster roll. • 131 E. 54th St. (212-752-0111). (E)

Divine Bar

This East Side establishment is all things to all people: a cigar bar, a wine bar, a tapas lounge, and a casual, couch-filled living room where local office workers can often be found unwinding. • 244 E. 51st St. (212-319-9463). (I–M)

Giambelli 50th Ristorante

Upscale Italian fare served in a warm and cozy atmosphere. The chef imports esoteric varieties of pasta from Italy to prepare his specialties; the fish and meat dishes are as carefully considered. • 46 E. 50th St. (212-688-2760). (M)

✩ Le Périgord

A recent renovation did nothing to disguise the comforting, cosseting old-world feel of this Sutton Place landmark, where tuxedo'd captains oversee tableside service and remind you to order your Grand Marnier soufflé at the same time as your dinner. And new chef Jacques Qualin (Jean Georges) is not opposed to bathing veal chops in yogurt-lemon sauce or molding a salmon fillet into the shape of a petite mignon. He's a wizard with lighter dishes as well, like turbot (with a lacy glaze of comte cheese) and a succession of luminous soups. Try the Floating Island for dessert, but be sure to dress in proper attire, or owner Georges Briguet will banish you to the back room. • 405 E. 52nd St. (212-755-6244). (E)

The Leopard

This townhouse restaurant named for the famous Italian novel is known for its bargain four-course prix fixe, including unlimited house wine. The enclosed garden and the French-Continental menu—roast duckling, stuffed quail, filet mignon—attract a loyal following. • 253 E. 50th St. (212-759-3735). (M–E)

Monkey Bar

Many talented chefs have made their way through this revolving-door of a kitchen, which, in its latest incarnation, has taken on a distinctly Asian accent that's reflected even in house classics like baked Alaska, rendered exotically Eastern with yuzu, guava, and lychee sorbet. Thankfully, David Rockwell's swanky design and the monkey-muraled bar remain unchanged, and plushly comfortable in an Old New York way. • 60 E. 54th St. (212-838-2600). (E)

Nino's Positano

An upscale Italian restaurant specializing in food from the southern regions, Positano in particular. Pastas range from the simple (fusilli with tomato-basil sauce) to the more complex (Cognac-infused seafood risotto), and main courses traverse similar territory. • 890 Second Ave., nr. 47th St. (212-355-5540). (M)

★ Oceana

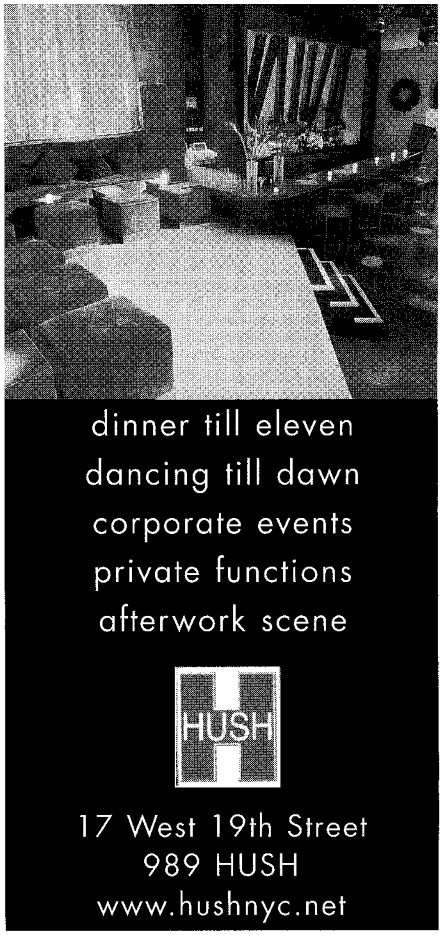
You might call Rick Moonen a conservationist. We call him a tease. He'll serve up dynamite renditions of swordfish and Chilean sea bass, then whisk them off the menu the moment the species nears extinction. But luckily, it's not so much about the raw materials as it is about his unique seasonings and flavor compositions: lobster ravioli in a tomato-basil broth, for instance, with real acid oomph. Or "everything" crusted tuna steak, inspired by the bagel. • 55 E. 54th St. (212-759-5941). (E)

★ Oyster Bar

Unperturbed by the arriviste competition in the food court next door, the jewel of the pre-renovation Terminal continues to serve superlative pan roasts and clam chowders, and an overwhelming assortment of East and West Coast oysters. The sprawling subterranean space has the hustle-bustle feel of a cafeteria, which its snaking counters resemble, but don't be fooled—you pay for the privilege of eating under that vaulted tile ceiling. • Grand Central Terminal, 42nd St. and Vanderbilt Ave. (212-490-6650). (M–E)

★ Peacock Alley

In this cushioned cocoon of a dining room off the lobby of the Waldorf Astoria, chef Laurent Gras—a disciple of Alain Ducasse—offers diners a chance to mix and match bite-size "courses" chosen from categories like Ocean and River, Field and Forest, and Farm. Or put yourself entirely in his hands with the seven-course "tête à tête" menu, each streamlined dish composed of just two ingredients achieving, in Gras's words, a "single clean note." • 301 Park Ave., in the Waldorf-Astoria (212-872-4895). (E)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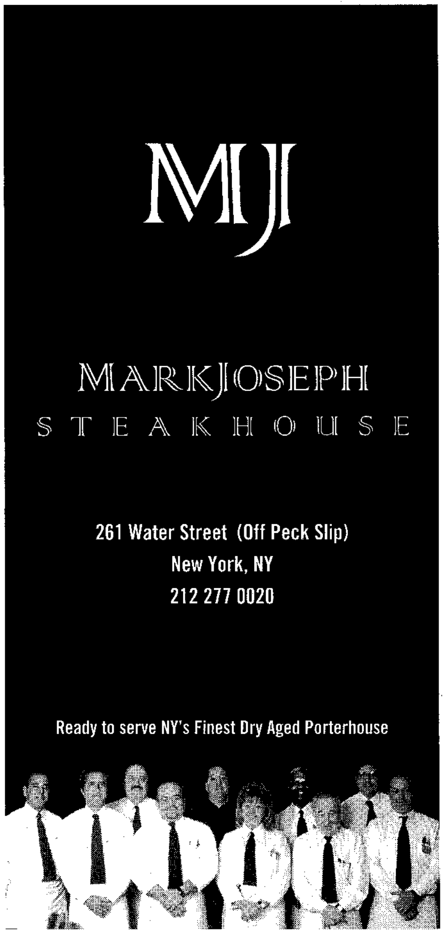
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Tropica
Always packed at lunch, but squeeze in at the bar and order the conch chowder and a glass of tropical iced tea. The dining room serves some of the most imaginative Caribbean-inspired seafood in town, but be sure to go on a weekday—the restaurant, located in the lobby of the MetLife Building, is closed Saturday and Sunday. • 200 Park Ave., nr. 45th St. (212-867-6767). (M–E)

43rd–56th Streets, West Side

Adrienne
Maybe you're not an out-of-towner on a spending spree, but you can pretend to be at this posh hotel restaurant overlooking a particularly swank stretch of Fifth Avenue. Chef Oliver Dudler's modern French menu changes seasonally, and incorporates to-be-expected luxury ingredients like lobster (in a trio of soups), foie gras (with red-onion compote), and poached Dover sole. The $50 prix fixe dinner is a (relative) steal. • 700 Fifth Ave., at 55th St., in the Peninsula (212-903-3918). (M–E)

★ Beacon
The gimmick here is cooking everything over an open fire: wood-roasted trout, spit-roasted duck with grilled scallions, roast suckling pig with grilled apples and bitter chocolate rub, even oysters. The house-baked breads are exceptional. And in an age of designer martinis and so-so cosmos, the classic cocktail list is precision science. • 25 W. 56th St. (212-332-0500). (E)

Bello
Locals flock here for generous portions of well-priced Northern Italian served in a casually elegant atmosphere. Free parking with dinner after 5 P.M. • 863 Ninth Ave., at 56th St. (212-246-6773). (M)

Bombay Palace
This newly refurbished, elegant Indian restaurant has been serving its refined versions of tandoori lobster, lamb kandhari, and chicken kashmiri to a midtown office crowd for years. Try the excellent Indian breads. • 30 W. 52nd St. (212-541-7777). (M)

★ Chez Louis
Chef Matthew Tivy injects this place with the saucy vigor of the Marais on a Sunday afternoon. From his saffron-slashed mussel soup to a tartine of tomatoes and goat cheese as seductive as Anouk Aimée tossing her head, his palette is so rich and presentation so unfussy that one tears into his hangar steak with as little ceremony as one greets a Big Mac with. Owner David Liederman has even brought back his wickedly chompable cookies. • 74 W. 50th St. (212-333-3388). (M–E)

Da Rosina
A convenient pretheater location, specializing in homemade pasta and other Italian fare, like baked polenta marinara and veal scallopine. Try the $19.99 prix fixe dinner. • 342 W. 46th St. (212-977-7373). (M)

★ Del Frisco's
Want to see what mahogany fashioned by testosterone looks like? This is without question the most urbanely elegant steakhouse you will ever see, its meat locker filled with terrific beef. Now if they can only figure out how to get their staff up to the level of their surroundings and kitchen. The place is New York landmark potential. • 1221 Sixth Ave., at 49th St. (212-575-5129). (E)

★ Island Burgers and Shakes
This Hell's Kitchen storefront with a Southern California-vibe specializes in burgers and chicken sandwiches, or churascos, in countless combinations and served on great bread and with superior condiments. A blackened churasco is almost painfully spicy and needs only minor embellishment (some blue cheese, or avocado and Monterey jack) to gain admission into our sandwich hall of fame. Great malteds douse the flames. • 766 Ninth Ave., nr. 51st St. (212-307-7394). (I) ($)

Johnnie's
This old-world Italian restaurant has been a midtown fixture for over three and a half decades. The menu runs the gamut from basic pastas to chicken, veal, and seafood dishes; the $14.95 dinner special is a particularly good deal. • 135 W. 45th St. (212-869-5565). (I–M)

★ JUdson Grill
It's a room so vast and vaulted you expect them to be announcing Trailways departures. But chef Bill Telepan's cooking, propelled by a rousing level of confidence in bold flavors and pairings, matches the bravura of the room. With blithe deftness, he makes the familiar seem fresh. Crab cakes get dashed with lemon verbena, chickpea soup tickles insidiously, and loin of pork with apple compote will leave you happy. • 152 W. 52nd St. (212-582-5252). (E)

La Veranda
Northern Italian food. A popular theater district spot offering generous portions of fish, seafood, veal

Object of Desire

Burger Heaven

You might say the "Olives burger panini" at **Todd English's Olives NY** sounds like a hamburger that's just returned from the Grand Tour. We say this delectable grilled flatbread sandwich of loosely packed ground beef, sautéed onions, and sweet mustard relish, served with a mountain of rosemary-and-Parmesan-flecked fries, has more in common with the all-American patty melt—it's got everything except the Swiss. So who says this guy can't show any restraint? (201 Park Avenue South, at 17th Street; 212-353-8345.)

Photograph by Patrik Rytikangas.

chops, and pasta and brunch on weekends. Free parking (with dinner) from 5 P.M. to 1 A.M. • 163 W. 47th St. (212-391-0905). (M)

☆ **Local**
If your idea of Theater District dining is a lackluster prix fixe, this stylish newcomer and its focused, flavorful cooking will open your eyes—and with entrées venturing into the mid-thirty-dollar range—your wallet. Previously seen stirring the pots for Ron Perelman, chef Franklin Becker has the knack. We're particularly fond of his Vidalia onion and black olive tart, and knockout sea scallops riding a crab cake. • 224 W. 47th St. (212-921-2005). (M-E)

Martini's
Convenient for pre- and post-theater dining, with a buzzing sidewalk café and rustic homemade pastas, charcoal-grilled seafood, and, of course, multiple variations of the house drink. • 810 Seventh Ave., at 53rd St. (212-767-1717). (M)

Palio
Stylish midtown duplex restaurant, with a famous ground-floor muraled bar depicting the Palio race and elegant preparations of Italian dishes like sliced hen pheasant on salad with white truffles, and monkfish ravioli with asparagus and fresh tomato. Jacket required. • 151 W. 51st St. (212-245-4850). (E)

Randolph's
Housed in the Warwick Hotel—which William Randolph Hearst built for his mistress, Marion Davies—this cozy restaurant and lounge has a lush, old-world feel and an eclectic menu of international snacks and entrées, from dim sum to a filet mignon sandwich. • 65 W. 54th St. (212-247-2700). (M-E)

St. Andrews
In what might be New York's only full-fledged Scottish restaurant, the bartenders wear kilts, the scotch is single-malt, and the décor revolves around pictures of famous golf courses. The hearty steak-and-seafood menu features rack of lamb and brook trout stuffed with crabmeat and Irish oatmeal in a scotch-whiskey sauce. • 120 W. 44th St. (212-840-8413). (I-M)

Utsav Festive India
The bar of this regional Indian restaurant is located at street level while the contemporary dining room is built into a bridge spanning two midtown skyscrapers. The lunch buffet costs only $12.95, and à la carte entrées include ginger rack of lamb, tandoori filet mignon, and Bengali fish paturi. • 1185 Sixth Ave., nr. 46th St. (212-575-2525). (M)

Zanzibar
The crowd at this loungy Hell's Kitchen restaurant is as eclectic as the menu. African, Arabic, Asian, and Mediterranean touches appear in dishes like tuna and ginger ravioli; mussel soup with garlic, chickpeas, and cilantro; and a root vegetable and peanut stew served over rice. • 645 Ninth Ave, nr. 45th St. (212-957-9197). (M)

57th–60th Streets

★ **Atlas**
Each dish has a litany of preparations, and every single impressive yet complicated one of them gets explained to the diner. Chef Paul Liebrandt's food—marinated eels with watermelon, tagliatelle with cepes, and tuna with mini green-apple strudels—exhibits remarkable invention, though some dishes could use more restraint. All the house is missing is the confidence to let its guests sit back and observe Atlas's enjoyable qualities for themselves. • 40 Central Park So. (212-759-9191). (M-E)

Café Botanica
The Essex House hotel's other restaurant—the one without Alain Ducasse is an airy, plant-filled respite from the congestion of Central Park South. Sunday brunch is a neighborhood fixture; at night, sample the chef's renditions of grilled salmon with pisto manchego, and duck magret with finger potatoes and tapenade. • 160 Central Park So. (212-484-5120). (E)

Dawat
You can't miss with tandoori—cooked before your eyes in the big ovens in the back—or with any of the more unusual regional specials. Actress and cookbook author Madhur Jaffrey supervises the very popular and wide-ranging menu. • 210 E. 58th St. (212-355-7555). (M)

Gabriel's Bar & Restaurant
Just four blocks from Lincoln Center, this acclaimed Northern Italian favorite of theatergoers and neighborhood regulars is unintimidatingly comfortable and culinarily sophisticated at the same time. Hearty dishes include gnocchi in duck ragù, braised short ribs with a semolina custard, and wood-grilled tuna with fresh horseradish. The hot chocolate has a cult following. • 11 W. 60th St. (212-956-4600). (M-E)

☆ **March**
If you're not in the mood, March can seem awfully precious. Your meal a succession of intricately thought-out small courses (either four or seven): shards of grilled duck in a tart shower of lime and mango, for instance. Service that almost gets a tissue to you before you've sneezed. But should there come a time when you want to be surrounded by people who have every right to their effusive confidence, Wayne Nish and Joseph Scalice offer one of New York's most deliciously covert seductions. • 405 E. 58th St. (212-754-6272). (E)

★ **Nicole's**
Restaurants in clothing stores are usually more amenity than attraction. But this minimalist-chic dining room in the basement of Nicole Farhi's boutique is a rare exception. Chef Annie Wayte is obsessed with seasonal produce, and changes her menu every six weeks to prove it. The less expensive bar menu changes *daily*. Which means one ought not to grow too attached to her grilled-scallop-and-fennel salad, or the fritto misto of wild striped bass, haricots verts, and artichoke hearts. Then again, there's always the delicious incentive of having something new to discover next time. • 10 E. 60th St. (212-223-2288). (E)

★ **Norma's**
Breakfast is primordial for everyone we know who equates French toast or biscuits with Mom and unconditional love. That's why we think the Parker Meridien's spiffy Norma's, with its exuberant all-day breakfast, is worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize. Pancakes by a mom on Prozac. Complimentary fruit-smoothie shots and a duo of croissants oozing smoked-salmon-flecked scrambled eggs. If there really can be too much of a good thing, then breakfast here ought to be against the law. • 118 W. 57th St. (212-708-7460). (M)

★ **The Russian Tea Room**
The late Warner LeRoy left New York this spectacle of a parting gift, and for polishing up the fanciful red and green frippery alone, he deserves our undying gratitude and a Landmarks Preservation Commission award. Whether you love or hate the trout swimming inside the acrylic bear, you can't fault dishes like borscht and Georgian-spiced seared halibut. • 150 W. 57th St. (212-974-2111). (E)

Above 60th Street, East Side

★ **Cafe Boulud**
Most chefs have one menu to worry about. At Daniel Boulud's beige-on-beige bistro, Andrew Carmellini has four. For "Le Voyage," he globe-trots wherever his taste buds take him, from Vietnam to New Orleans. Mixing and matching is encouraged, so there's no reason why you can't begin with fresh- and smoked-salmon latkes from "La Saison," segue into potato-crusted sea bass from "La Tradition," and conclude with a warm fig tart from the menu called "Le Potager," nirvana for the vegetarian gourmet. • 20 East 76th Street (212-772-2600). (E)

★ **Cello**
Every appointment (Bernaudaud dishes, monochromatic flowers, and almost reflective mahogany walls) serves as an elegant yet unobtrusive backdrop for the whisper-light delicacies that emerge from chef Laurent Tourondel's kitchen. Rougets glistening like bloodstones in a raw tomato sauce. Turbot that melts like cotton candy. Lamb as velvety as foie gras. And frozen crême bruleé that must have the Häagen-Dazs people turning like dervishes. Cello also has

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the most beautiful new private dining room in town. • 53 E. 77th St. (212-517-1200). (E)

★ Eli's Restaurant
It's downright soothing to wander into Eli's Restaurant, spruced up and downlit for dinner, and relax over Scott Bieber's straightaway cooking. His Nantucket bay scallops in butter come from an era before we ever dreamed of eating seaweed. We're not sure why several slices of Molino tomatoes, even glistening with Laudemio olive oil and fleur de sel, should cost $8 but hey, this is Eli Zabar, the man who taught us no price is too much for the perfect raspberry. • 1411 Third Ave., at 80th St. (212-717-8100). (E)

Etou
"Fusion is indefeasible" reads the motto printed on the menu of this Upper East Side Japanese restaurant from the owners of Flushing's Tawainese-Chinese-Japanese fusion joint, Laifood. To support their thesis, the kitchen dabbles in Thai spices, Mexican chiles, even mozzarella cheese to jazz up otherwise traditionally prepared Japanese dishes. • 1420 Third Ave., nr. 80th St. (212-249-0738). (M)

Mark's
Decked out like a private London club, with plump, tasseled pillows to nestle against. Fine French-American cooking (torchon of foie gras with cranberry-kumquat compote, pan-roasted lobster with Armagnac jus), award-winning wine list, and a Willy Wonka–worthy chocolate tea. • 25 E. 77th St., in the Mark Hotel (212-879-1864). (E)

Nino's
Elegant Italian with a romantic mural garden and nightly live entertainment. Try the grilled dishes—tuna on a bed of balsamic onions, double-cut veal chop—or the lobster fra diavolo. • 1354 First Ave., nr. 72nd St. (212-988-0002). (E)

★ Payard Patisserie & Bistro
You'll never shiver and blush the way Francois Payard's Nôtre Dame, Fontainbleau, St.-Honoré, or devilish chocolate tart make you when they hijack your taste buds to a place they've never been and will forever yearn to return. If all this sweetness weren't enough, Payard's chef Philippe Bertineau concocts first and second courses that match François's touted thirds. • 1032 Lexington Ave., nr. 73rd St. (212-717-5252). (M–E)

Trata
With its fish-market display, its Greek spreads and salads, and its simply grilled seafood, this bustling Upper East Side restaurant offers an affordable, less dramatic alternative to Estiatorio Milos, where the chef used to work. • 1331 Second Ave., nr. 70th St. (212-535-3800). (M)

Above 60th Street, West Side

★ Avenue Bistro
Linger over a scrambled-eggs-and-apple-pancake breakfast until three in the afternoon, or come for dinner, when the pastry counter becomes a wine bar, votive candles flicker on tiny tabletops, and the menu shifts to sophisticated French-American fare like sweetbreads, foie gras terrine, and crisp roast duckling. Chef-owner Scott Campbell is justly proud of his creamy Valrhona hot chocolate, which he freezes into ice cream in the summer, and he's shrewdly responded to the neighborhood's demographics by concocting his own line of baby food, made from all-natural ingredients. • 520 Columbus Ave., at 85th St. (212-579-3194). (M)

★ Jean Georges
Are you ready for an amazing evening that is not about you? Nothing and no one at Jean Georges steals center stage from the wondrous creations of its extraordinary chef, Jean-Georges Vongerichten. If you're okay with such divine supplication, prepare to be open-mouthed whenever you're not chewing. Nothing you encounter will fail to dazzle, from the simplest dish of asparagus and morels au jus to the unexpected combo of sweetbreads en cocotte with ginger and licorice. • 1 Central Park West (212-299-3900). (E)

★ Ruby Foo's
In what might be Auntie Mame's duplex during her high mah-jongg period, the black-bean sauce is vibrant and the wok steamed lobster is worth its weight in jade. And regardless of where you sit, you have to walk down the Mamescent staircase at least once. Screaming "Live! Live! Live!" is optional. • 2182 Broadway, at 77th St. (212-724-6700). (M)

Sapphire Indian Cuisine
A couple of partners from TriBeCa's Salaam Bombay have brought regional Indian cuisine to Columbus Circle. The prix fixe lunch buffet is a bargain, and all the trendy territories (Goa, Gujarat) are well-represented. • 1845 Broadway, nr. 61st St. (212-245-4444). (M)

Brooklyn

★ Diner
Even before you've finished your first cocktail, you notice the floor is tilting. But the disequilibrium contributes to the charm of this snug, just-rehabbed-enough 1927 dining car. A beyond reductive menu offering "soup," "burger," "spinach," and at brunch, "hot cereal" misleads at first. Don't believe the lack of hype. Chef Caroline Fidanza shows her dexterous hand with specials like succulent pork loin with caramelized cipollini and tender lamb ragout with white-bean gratin. • 85 Broadway (718-486-3077). (M)

★ The Grocery
Like Savoy, where the Grocery's co–chef-owners, Charles Kiely and Sharon Pachter met, their 30-seat storefront mom-and-pop shop exudes a low-key charm that's hard to resist. Their Brooklyn location, however, allows them to charge sub-SoHo prices for inspired dishes like duck-confit strudel; seared pork loin with mashed sweet potatoes and roasted pears; and Eden Brook trout stuffed with spinach and shallots with spaetzle. For dessert, there's a crème fraîche cheesecake with guava sorbet that couldn't possibly inhabit the same universe, never mind borough, as Junior's. • 288 Smith St. (718-596-3335). (M)

Queens

★ La Flor Bakery and Cafe
A wonderful neighborhood resource, this cozy Woodside café has two mouthwatering pastry displays, one stocked with Mexican rolls and buns, the other brimming with sour-cream coffee cake and cranberry scones. If breakfast is an embarrassment of riches, lunch and dinner are equally, intriguingly bicultural. The Mexican chef cooks food from his Puebla past (tortas, tacos, and quesadillas) and his New York present (pan-roasted salmon in a spinach-caper sauce, say), and nothing—even, incredibly, the steak au poivre—costs more than $10.95. • 53-02 Roosevelt Ave. (718-426-8023). (I)

Water's Edge
Even if the voyage lasts just fifteen minutes, as the one does from East 34th Street to Long Island City, the ferry ride feels like an instant vacation. This one happens to be free if you're having dinner at this quiet, elegant space where every table has a view of Manhattan. Lively French-American fare like Maine-lobster soufflé and seared Copper River salmon with chanterelles and tarragon jus vie with the view for your attention. • 44th Dr. at the East River (718-482-0033). (E)

Westchester

Equus
No ordinary hotel restaurant, this one is housed within a hundred-year-old castle called, appropriately enough, the Castle at Tarrytown, a Relais & Châteaux property with Hudson River views. Dinner is a $58 prix fixe, and offers such contemporary French fare as terrine of foie gras with Calvados, pan-roasted wild striped bass with corn ravioli, and medallions of venison with red cabbage and root-vegetable cakes. Jacket required. • 400 Benedict Ave. (914-631-1980). (E)

cue

Nightlife

Edited by Ethan Brown

Ground Rules

In clubland, promptness is *not* next to godliness; expect shows to start much later than promised. $ = cash only.

Concerts

Beres Hammond
4/19 at 8. • Hammerstein Ballroom, 311 W. 34th St. (212-307-7171); $25.

Willie Nelson & Family
4/21 at 8. • Beacon Theatre, 74th St. and Broadway (212-307-7171); $50, $30.

Small Stages

B.B. King Blues Club & Grill
4/17: Molly Hatchet. 4/18: Average White Band. 4/19: Shemekia Copeland. 4/20–4/21: The Edgar Winter Band. • 243 W. 42nd St. (212-997-4144).

Bottom Line
4/18: "The Sounds of Silents." 4/19: "Nightbirds: A Celebration of Women Performers" featuring Phoebe Legere; Cindy Kalmenson. 4/20: Dan Hicks and His Hot Licks. 4/21: Vice featuring Corey Glover. 4/24: Billy Idol. • 15 W. 4th St. (212-228-6300).

Bowery Ballroom
4/17: New Found Glory. 4/20: Zen Tricksters. 4/21: Blue Mountain; Pernice Brothers. 4/23–4/24: Jurassic 5. • 6 Delancey St. (212-533-2111).

Irving Plaza
4/18: Gary Numan. 4/19–4/20: Soulive. 4/21: The Radiators. 4/23–4/24: Our Lady Peace. • 17 Irving Pl. (212-777-6800).

Joe's Pub
An intimate space that boasts the most eclectic booking in town. Expect everything from torch singers to underground hip-hoppers to New Age composers. Mondays: "Downtown Rock and Roll" with ever-present spinner Paul Sevigny. Tuesdays: Hip-hop and R&B with D.J. Rich Medina at "One." Wednesdays: The world-beat-oriented "Love Bazaar" with D.J. Kamala. Thursdays: "Benefit," a downtown music revue. Fridays: Editors, scene-makers, and boldface names take turns spinning their favorite records with the "Personality D.J. Series." Saturdays: "Hideaway" with Kiki and Unik. Sundays: "Club Badd" with long-lost downtown icon Larry Tee. 4/22: Matt Haimowitz. 4/18: Afro-beat with Antibalas; sets at 11 and 1:30. • 425 Lafayette St. (212-239-6200).

Knitting Factory
4/17: Rob Reddy Octet; Duck Baker/Mark Dresser Duo. 4/18: Kevin Hayes. 4/19: Pushstars; Churchills. 4/20: The Figgs; Ride the Mole; Actionslacks. 4/21: Wheat; Matt Pond PA; the Clairvoyants. 4/22: David Thomas & 2 Pale Boys; Gary Lucas. 4/23: Dufus; Stipplicon. 4/24: Johnny Society; Church of Betty; Adam Elk. • 74 Leonard St. (212-219-3055). $.

Makor
4/17: Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers. 4/18: Norah Jones Quartet. 4/19: Phil Roy & Peter Mulvey; Elysian Fields. 4/21: Groove; Fabio Morgera's Jungle Jazz. 4/22: Classical Cafe. 4/24: Songwriters Hall of Fame. • 35 West 67 St. (212-601-1000).

Manitoba's
Mondays: Beat Rodeo. Fridays: Adam Roth. • 99 Avenue B (212-982-2511).

Maxwell's
4/18: Cecil; Friends, Romans & Countrymen; Mexican Elvis. 4/19: Eclectic Nobodys; Kilgore Trout; Gabe Dixon Band. 4/20: NRBQ; Michael Shelley. 4/21: Swag; Bill McGarvey. 4/22: The Pernice Bros.; Blue Mountain; the Sadies. 4/23–4/24: Strangefolk. • 1039 Washington St., Hoboken, N.J. (201-653-1703).

Mercury Lounge
4/18: Dan Melchior; Tyler Keith. 4/19: Mekons; Laura Cantrell. 4/20: Mekons; Swag. 4/21: Blue Green; the Living Things; Bellweather. 4/22: White Hassle. 4/23: Ours; Stephan Smith. 4/24: Florence Dore; Supple. • 217 E. Houston St. (212-260-4700).

Rodeo Bar
4/17: The Moonlighters. 4/18: Ron Sunshine and Full Swing. 4/19: The Tarbox Ramblers. 4/20: Star City. 4/21: John Evans. 4/22: Leanne Westover and Strange Cargo. 4/23: G Clef's Gathering of the Tribes. • 375 Third Ave. at 27th St. (212-683-6500).

S.O.B.'s
4/17: Dan Toher. 4/18–4/19: Astrud Gilberto. 4/20: Isaac Delgado. 4/21: "Samba Saturdays." 4/23: La Tropica Mondays. 4/24: Toots and the Maytals. • 204 Varick St. (212-243-4940).

The Village Underground
Former Tramps booker Steve Weitzman brings his eclectic sensibility to a new smoke-free club in the West Village. 4/20: Duncan Sheik. 4/21: Al Kooper. 4/22: John Trudell. • 130 W. 3rd St. (212-777-7745).

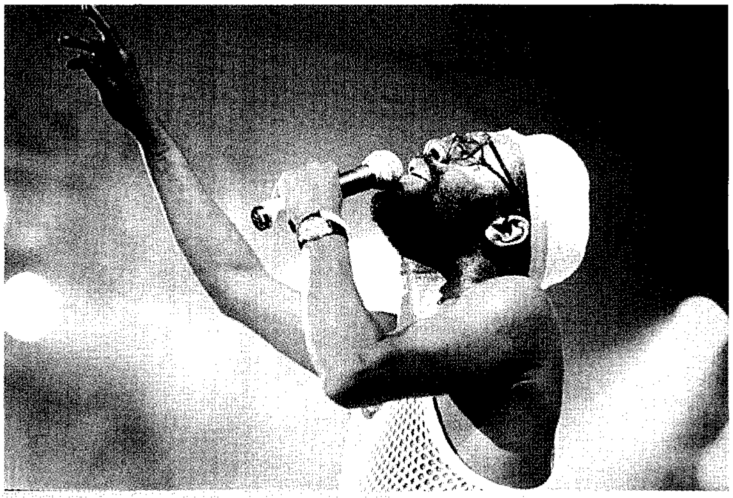
Wetlands
Mondays: D.J. Logic. Tuesdays: Illuminati. Thursdays: Groove Collective. 4/17: Bathtub Gin. 4/18: Cee Knowledge and the Cosmic Funk Orchestra. 4/19: Cannabis Cup Band. 4/20–4/21: Robert Walters. 4/24: Big Frog. • 161 Hudson St. (212-386-3600) $.

Clubland

Centro-Fly
Once dominated by the bottle-service set, Centro-Fly has now achieved a near-perfect mix of Wall Streeters with loosened ties, D.J.-bag-carrying dance-music fanatics and track-suited deep-house heads. Tuesdays: Promoter Noah Tepperberg's fabulous "Tuesday-Baby Tuesday" goes head-to-head with Spa's model-centric Tuesday party. Thursdays: "Subliminal Sessions" with D.J. Erick Morillo and big-name special guests. Fridays: "GBH" (Great British House), a refugee from Cheetah, makes a bid for the big room of Centro-Fly. Saturdays: Energetic house and big beat with "Plant." • 45 W. 21st St. (212-803-7859).

Cheetah
A jungle-themed club with a spacious dance floor and a small yet powerful sound system. Tuesdays: Latin music with reggae and R&B thrown in the mix. D.J. Camilo spins. Thursdays: A super-exclusive (invite only, they say), hyperstealthy party called "Aerodynamic" thrown by promoters Allen West and Samuel "Tone" Barnes. D.J. Jolene spins. Fridays: "The World House Project." Saturdays: Thumping tribal house and live percussionists at "Cherchez La Femme." Sundays: "Boys Nite" D.J. Merritt spins at "Mardi Gras." • 12 W. 21st St. (212-206-7770).

Frank's Lounge
A bare-bones bar and dance spot, which hosts Lorie and E-Man's frenzied but low-key house-music party "Bang The Party" every Friday. The party, which has been at venues all over town from the 205 Club to Baktun, is just now settling into its own groove. • 660 Fulton St., at S. Elliott St., Brooklyn (212-726-1322).



Performance

Reggae's Romeo

After fourteen albums over the course of a two-decade career, reggae crooner **Beres Hammond** (pictured) is at last on a roll. The Annotto Bay, Jamaica, native recently opened for Wyclef Jean in Florida, and he's headlining the Hammerstein Ballroom on April 19, though he cracks that "playing in front of 4,000 people in New York is just okay when you've performed in front of 40,000 in Jamaica." But Hammond takes his long road to success—which began in his early teens, when he first heard records by Smokey Robinson and Marvin Gaye—in the sort of relaxed, easygoing stride that marks his laid-back reggae. "Everything takes time," he says. "It's nice when your music grows on someone. You don't want to force it. You want them to fall in love with it." Love is a common theme on Hammond's recent album *Music Is Life*, whether he's reflecting on the great love songs of the past ("Rock Away") or lamenting a loss ("Don't Play With My Heart"). It's Hammond's voice—a sweet yet earthbound falsetto—that really makes listeners swoon. "Only Beres," he says with a laugh, "can do what Beres do." (See "Concerts.") E.B.

Photograph by David Corio/Retna Ltd.

Performance

5 Alive

Their 1997 self-titled EP defined the old-school-revivalist movement that brought back everything from turntablism to fat shoelaces, but L.A.'s **Jurassic 5** (pictured) returned to the future on their most recent album, *Quality Control,* thanks mostly to the inventive approach of their D.J.'s, Nu-Mark and Cut Chemist. If their somewhat atavistic approach to emceeing (lots of 1-2-3's and A-B-C's) isn't always thrilling on record, it can be a lot of fun live, as each member takes turns at the mike. Don your Adidas track suit—and check your bling-blingy accoutrements at the door—when J5 takes over the Bowery Ballroom for two nights, April 23 and 24. (See "Small Stages.")

Fun
This sprawling, bi-level, warehouselike space doesn't book big-name D.J. talent, but it's got one of the coolest interiors in clubland, with huge projections of Japanese *anime,* a vertiginous yet comfy balcony area, and a seemingly gravity-defying D.J. booth. Thursdays: Cyberfetish party "Click+Drag." Fridays: Dinesh, Reid Speed, and Thom H. spin two-step garage at "Drive-By." Saturdays: The Wicked Crew and "N'Ice" D.J.'s Holmar and A. Gram present "The Golden Boys." • 130 Madison St., under the Manhattan Bridge (212-964-0303); $5.

Halcyon
Yet another excellent, unpretentious outer-borough nightspot with an eclectically minded lineup of house, drum 'n' bass, and electronica. Sundays: D.J.'s spin ambient music at "Undercity." Wednesdays: "THC: Tech-House Connection." Thursdays: Balanco Azul. Fridays: "Acupuncture: Therapy With Needles." Saturdays: "Abductions," where Halcyon features the best D.J.'s from well-known parties like "Twelve West" and "Hamsa." • 227 Smith St., bet. Butler and Douglass, Brooklyn (718-260-WAXY).

Limelight
The Limelight is back from the dead thanks to its powerhouse weekend nights, which see the likes of Detroit techno icon Jeff Mills and the trance heavies of the "Gatecrasher" crew grace the turntables. The mazelike club's renaissance comes just in time, as other megaclubs like Twilo have become uncomfortably packed, verging on the claustrophobic. • 660 Sixth Ave., at 20th St. (212-807-7780).

"Love Affair"
John Davis's new after-work Thursday-night party with D.J.'s MKL and Jerome Syndenham is full of all the flutey deep house you've come to expect from the promoter who built the "Body & Soul" empire. Thankfully, this plush way West space is a nice departure from Vinyl's dingy dance floor. • 431 West 16 Street, bet. Ninth and Tenth Aves. (212-714-7116 or www.jdproductionsnyc.com).

The Roxy
Fridays, the Roxy enlists D.J. Jason Ojeda for the relaunch of its night for the weekender straight crowd. Saturdays: Superstar D.J. Victor Calderone spins house for the Chelsea boys while hard-bodied go-go boys dance on the bar. • 515 W. 18th St. (212-627-0404). $.

Shine
This downtown spot is now host to excellent, enthusiastically received D.J.-oriented nights as well as up-and-coming rock and dance acts. Thursdays: The gloriously great D.J. Ron Trent and special guests like Phil Asher and Norman Jay. Fridays: The hip-hop-and-house-oriented "Fri-Daze." Saturdays: D.J. Greg Poole's dance-centric "Tremendous." • 285 West Broadway (212-941-0900).

Spa
The health-and-wellness theme (white walls, bathrooms designed to look like saunas) is thankfully mostly unobtrusive, and the crowd is thankfully not excessively chic. Spa promoter Steven Lewis maintains the kind of balance between office *zhlub*s, club kids, and A-listers he pulled off so nicely in the early days of the now-defunct Life. Wednesdays: "Big Bad Dodgy Disco," with New Wave and rock spun by D.J. Paul Sevigny. Thursdays: Super-promoter Erich Conrad's "Glam," with D.J. Jackie Christie. Fridays: Marc Ronson and Grandmaster Flash spin hip-hop and R&B for the A-listers at "Hollywood 2000." • 76 E. 13th St. (212-388-1060).

Twilo
Never mind all the drug-bust drama: The real news here is that Twilo is leaving trance in the dust and fast becoming a progessive-house fan's wet dream thanks to sets from U.K. epic housers like Mauro Piccotto and Danny Howells. Wednesdays: The upstairs lounge hosts hard house and techno with "2K Wednesdays," a low-key alternative to the frenzied Friday nights. Fridays: World-class D.J.'s like Carl Cox, Sasha and Digweed, and Cassius play for a mixed crowd of drag divas and on-the-prowl straights. Saturdays: Aging club king D.J. Junior Vasquez spins for his bare-chested Chelsea-boy following. 4/20: "Respect Is Burning" with D.J. Deep; Frankie Feliciano. • 530 W. 27th St. (212-268-1600).

Vinyl
The recent quality-of-life crackdowns have taken a toll on the club's once extraordinarily open vibe, but the parties—"Shelter" and "Body & Soul" in particular—continue to be strong. Fridays: Hard, trippy house from D.J. Danny Tenaglia. Saturdays: Timmy Regisford's fantastic house-music party "Shelter," which at about seven in the morning becomes the city's most adventurous party as Regisford bangs out everything from the Afro-beat of Fela Kuti to the ambient, pillow-soft house of Mr. Fingers. Sundays: François K, Joe Claussell, and Danny Krivit spin at the legendary afternoon party "Body & Soul." Arrive early (before seven), or you'll face a devastatingly long line at the door. • 6 Hubert St. (212-343-1379).

Jazz

Birdland
Proof that jazz is alive and well in midtown, this classy boîte serves up some fine southern cuisine along with its first-rate lineup. Sundays: Chico O'Farrill Afro-Cuban Jazz Big Band. Mondays: The Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra. Tuesdays: From 5:30 to 7:30 P.M., David Ostwald's Louis Armstrong Centennial Band. Tuesdays: The Famous Duke Ellington Orchestra. 4/18–4/21: Jimmy Scott. • 315 W. 44th St. (212-581-3080).

Blue Note
With a great sound system and a decent view from every seat in the house, the "jazz capital of the world" often presents two top-flight artists in one evening. Sets at 9 and 11:30. 4/17–4/22: Nancy Wilson and her trio. • 131 W. 3rd St. (212-475-8592).

Cajun
A brassy and brightly lit bit of New Orleans in Chelsea, dedicated to Preservation Hall–style Dixieland. Regulars include Joe Muranyi, clarinetist for the last six years of Louis Armstrong's All Stars; Eddy Davis, a jazz banjoist; and Chuck Folds, a stride pianist and sometime accompanist to trumpet legend Doc Cheatham. • 129 Eighth Ave., at 16th St. (212-691-6174).

City Hall
Fridays in the Granite Room: The Charles Mingus Orchestra. $15 cover, $10 for students. • 131 Duane Street (212-227-7777).

Detour
With no cover and top-notch young players, this Village joint packs 'em in every night of the week. Sundays: Mike Magilligan. 4/17: Vinson Valega and Friends. 4/18: Swing Set. 4/19: Sqwuank. 4/20: Dave Lobenstein Quintet. 4/21: Dawn Thomson Quartet. 4/23: Larry Corban Quintet. 4/24: Renaud Penant Trio. • 349 E. 13th St. (212-533-6212).

Iridium
In the surreal basement across from Lincoln Center, you'll find formidable jazz comers and the occasional legend. Thoughtful table placement minimizes a couple of structural columns' potentially disastrous effects on sight lines. Monday nights, the Les Paul Quartet holds office hours. Sets Sun.–Thurs. at 8:30 and 10:30, with extra midnight set Fri. and Sat. 4/17–4/22: Ray Barretto Band. • 44 W. 63rd St., across from Lincoln Center (212-582-2121).

"Jazz at Noon"
Lunchtime jam sessions every Friday at the San Martin Restaurant with some of jazz's hottest players. 4/20: Randy Sandke. • 143 E. 49th St. (212-832-0888) or www.jazzatnoon.com.

"Jazz at the Penthouse" presents Piano and Bass Duets
4/19–4/21 at 8, with Mulgrew Miller and Rodney Whitaker. • Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse, 165 W. 65th St. (212-721-6500); $45.

The Jazz Standard
A sprawling room with terrific sound and the best club menu in the city, the Jazz Standard offers a fresh mix of estimable hard-boppers, jazz greats, and artists on the rise. Mondays in March: The Howard Fishman Quartet. Sets Wed.–Thurs. at 8 and 10; Fri. and Sat. at 8, 10:30, and midnight; and Sun. at 7 and 9. $15–$25 cover; $10 minimum. 4/17–4/22: Monty Alexander Trio. • 116 E. 27th St. (212-576-2232).

Red Blazer
Mondays and Tuesdays: Sam Ulano's Jazz Band. Wednesdays: Felix Swing Band; Alan Russell Big Jazz

Photograph by Eva Vermandel/Retna.

Band. Thursdays: Stan Rubin's Big Swing Band. Fridays: Simon Wettenhall's Oceanic Dixieland Band. Saturdays: Bob Cantwell's Dixie & Swing Band. • 32 W. 37th St. (212-947-6428).

Rose Center

The Rose Center is open until 8:45 P.M. Fridays; suggested admission price is $10 for adults, $7.50 for students and seniors, $6 for children. 4/20: Dave Valentin Quartet. • American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St. (212) 769-5100.

Savoy Lounge

Nestled beneath the Port Authority Bus Terminal, this truly funky soul-jazz joint features sawdust on the floor, cheap beer in bottles, and a Hammond organ in the corner. $3–$7 cover; no minimum. • 355 W. 41st. St. (212-947-5255). $.

Showman's Café

Reopened right on 125th Street (though not, unfortunately, in its original location adjacent to the Apollo), the legendary jazz watering hole offers slow-cooked soul-jazz and funkified hard bop every night. No cover; two-drink minimum. • 375 E. 125th St. (212-864-8941). $.

Small's

Extremely cozy and open all night, offering after-hours jazz until 8 A.M. It's a candlelit basement whose nightly jams start round about 2 A.M.—the perfect time for a post–Village Vanguard visit (it's right around the corner)—and often involve free beverages and food. • 183 W. 10th St (212-929-7565).

Sweet Basil

An intimate downtown restaurant with good food and high-profile jazz acts. Every Saturday, jazz brunch with Ilhan Ersahin. Sundays, Chuck Folds hosts "the original jazz brunch." Every Monday, it's the Spirit of Life Ensemble. Sets at 9 and 11, with extra sets Fri. and Sat. at 12:30 A.M. 4/17–4/22: Frank Lacy Experience. • 88 Seventh Ave. So., at Bleecker St. (212-242-1785).

Tonic

Yet another impeccably hip Lower East Side avant-jazzerie, Tonic has its sights set on the Knitting Factory crowd. Sunday: Klezmer Sundays. 4/17: Derek Bailey & Will Gaines; Rhodri Davies, Mark Wastell & Simon Fell. 4/18–4/20: Company. • 107 Norfolk St. (212-358-7503). $.

Village Vanguard

Perhaps the world's greatest jazz club, and certainly the most steeped in history, this dark, smoky institution is revered by fans around the world. Study the photos of jazz icons, dig the curtains Miles Davis once played to, and sneak a glance inside the kitchen, an Algonquin Round Table for the bop age. Mondays, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra swings on. Sets at 9:30 and 11:30, with a late 1 A.M. set Fri. and Sat. 4/17–4/22: Jim Hall Trio. • 178 Seventh Ave. So., at W. 11th St. (212-255-4037). $.

Comedy

Boston Comedy Club

Animal House ambience and, most nights, comedy to match. Shows Tues.–Thurs. at 9:30; Fri.–Sat. at 8, 10, and midnight. • 82 W. 3rd St. (212-477-1000).

Carolines on Broadway

In Times Square just down the street from the *Letterman* show, Carolines hosts big names and talented up-and-comers in its wide, elegant, TV-studio-like basement. Mondays, "New Talent Night," hosted by Eddie Brill. 4/17: Hot 97's "Phat Tuesday." 4/18: Star and Buc Wild's "3D Amateur Slide Show." 4/19–4/22: Jay Mohr. 4/23: "The Girl Show." 4/24: "The Blue Collar Show." • 1626 Broadway, bet. 49th and 50th Sts. (212-757-4100); $12.50–$24.50, two-drink minimum.

Comedy Cellar

A physical throwback to sixties Village coffeehouses, this is the late-night subterranean haunt of many of the city's top comics. Shows Fri. at 9 and 11; Sat. at 9, 10:45, and 12:30; and Sun.–Thurs. at 9. Through 4/22: Colin Quinn; Kevin Brennan; Larry Amoros; Steve Byrne; Tony Rock. • 117 MacDougal St. (212-254-3480).

Comic Strip

Probably the most expertly booked club in the city, this showcase offers an eclectic mix of comedians every night of the week. • 1568 Second Ave., bet. 81st and 82nd Sts. (212-861-9386).

Dangerfield's

Founded by the respect-deprived comedian two decades ago, this Vegas-style lounge is one of the city's oldest comedy establishments. Shows Fri. at 9 and 11:15; Sat. at 8, 10:30, and 12:30 A.M.; Sun.–Thurs., continuous from 8:45. Cover is $15 Fri. and Sat. ($20 for 10:30 Sat. show), $12.50 on weeknights; no minimum. Through 4/22: Gregory Rogell; Jim McCue; Rob Magnotti; Nancy Redman; Richie Byrne; Carrie Karavas. • 1118 First Ave., bet. 61st and 62nd Sts. (212-593-1650).

Gotham

A trendy comedy spot in the Flatiron district. Every Tues. and Sun., New Talent Showcase; Wednesdays with Robert Klein. Sun.–Thurs. at 8:30 with a $10 cover; Fri. and Sat. at 8:30 and 10:30 with a $15 cover. Two-drink minimum. 4/20–4/21: Louis Ramey; Tom Papa; Pete Correale; Wali Collins. 4/22: "Political Junkies." • 34 W. 22nd St. (212-367-9000).

"Spin Cycle Comedy"

Comedy from Danny Cohen and Jodie Wasserman while you separate your whites and colors. Really. • King Size Laundromat, 178 Seventh Ave., at 20th St. (212-501-6016); free.

Stand-up New York

Robin Williams is known to drop by here unannounced to warm up for his *Letterman* appearances. Shows Sun.–Thurs. at 7 and 9; Fri.–Sat. at 8, 10, and 12:15 A.M. $12 cover. • 236 W. 78th St. (212-595-0850).

Cabaret

Algonquin Hotel

The Oak Room hosts some formidable names in its cozy environs. (Early shows Tues.–Sat., late shows Fri. and Sat.) Through 4/21: Julie Wilson with Mark Hummel. • 59 W. 44th St. (212-840-6800).

Arci's Place

A Murray Hill–area Italian restaurant with an intimate cabaret space. 4/17–4/28: Lorna Dallas. • 450 Park Ave. So., at 30th St. (212-532-4370).

Cafe Carlyle

Every Monday, Woody Allen swings through the early set with Eddy Davis & His New Orleans Jazz Band at 8:45. $60. • Carlyle Hotel, Madison Ave. at 76th St. (212-744-1600).

Cafe Pierre

Tues.–Sat., singer-pianist Kathleen Landis celebrates her fourteenth year at the Cafe Pierre with a special program called "Fascinating Rhythms: 50 Years of American Popular Song and Jazz." Sun.–Mon., Nancy Winston sings and plays piano. $19 minimum; jacket and tie required. • Fifth Ave. at 61st St. (212-940-8195).

The Carnegie Club at Carnegie Bar and Books

Fridays and Saturdays at 9:30 and 11: Sinatra impersonator Cary Hoffman, backed by Stan Rubin's eleven-piece big band. $20 cover; two-drink minimum. • 156 W. 56th St. (212-957-9676).

Don't Tell Mama

What better way to wind down after an evening of overwrought Broadway fare than some understated cabaret? Thursdays: "Seth's Broadway Chatterbox." Fridays: "The Next Big Broadway Musical." Saturdays at 8: "Poole Party!" Saturdays at 11: Tommy Femia presents "Judy Garland Live!" • 343 W. 46th St. (212-757-0788). $.

Feinstein's at the Regency

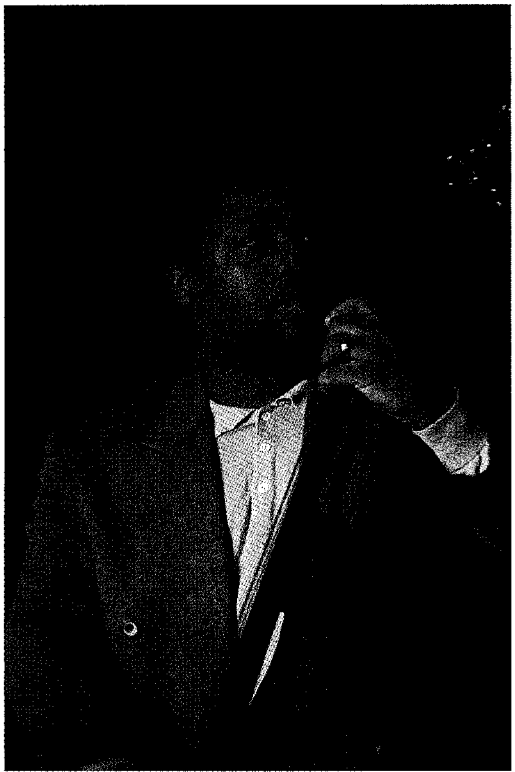
Michael Feinstein's cabaret space at the Regency Hotel shares the room with the restaurant 540 Park. Tickets are $50 Tues.–Fri.; $75 for the early show on Friday and all shows on Saturday; $50 food-and-drink minimum. Through 5/5: The Pizzarelli Family. • 540 Park Ave., at E. 61st St. (212-307-4100 or 212-339-4095).

FireBird Café

The theater district's newest postshow snuggery, right next door to an overwrought Russian restaurant—steer clear of the Cossack-dagger-toting doormen and you'll be fine. Sets Wed.–Thurs. at 9; Fri.–Sat. at 9 and 11. $30 cover; $15 minimum. • 365 W. 46th St. (212-586-0244).

Judy's

This cozy and friendly piano bar features two performance spaces, a fine menu, and a weekly gig by Judy herself. 4/17: Brad Menendez in "Herbert's Happy Hour." 4/18: Carol Shedlin in "Swing High, Swing Low." 4/19: Debbie Lesser. 4/20: Julie Reyburn in "Near the Fire." 4/21: Judy Kreston and David Lahm. 4/22: Bob Cohen. 4/23: "Leer Mondays." • 169 Eighth Ave., bet. 18th and 19th Sts. (212-929-5410).



Duet

The Men Upstairs

Jazz at Lincoln Center's left-of-center-leaning "Jazz at the Penthouse" series continues its commendable tradition of spotlighting non-marquee players with a series of duet performances April 19 through April 21 at the Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse. Onstage this time around: pianist **Mulgrew Miller,** who has worked with everyone from Mercer Ellington to Betty Carter, and **Rodney Whitaker** (pictured), a virtuoso bass player whose stints have included everything from a spot in techno-icon Carl Craig's Innerzone Orchestra to collaborations with hard-bop master Roy Hargrove. (See "Jazz.")

Photograph by Jack Vartoogian.

cue

TheMix

Edited by Boris Kachka

Radio Highlights

The Salzburg Festival
The famous festival of music and drama, broadcast here weekly through August 11, debuts with a performance of Brahms and Schumann by the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna State Opera chorus. • 4/21 at 8 P.M. WNYC, 93.9 FM.

"The Next Big Thing"
Dean Olsher's modern variety show debuts an original radio drama called "You're The Fool," starring Debbie Harry, Roy Nathanson, and David Margulies. Nathanson's band, the Jazz Passengers, performs accompanying music. • 4/22 at 11 A.M. WNYC, 93.9 FM.

Shakespeare's Birthday Celebration
The classical-music station celebrates the Bard's 437th, playing music by Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Berlioz, and many others inspired by him. Throughout the day, excerpts will be read by Royal Shakespeare Company members, with prizes awarded to listeners correctly identifying the plays they're from. • 4/23, 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. WQXR, 96.3 FM.

Lectures and Panels

"Criticism and/or Journalism"
Wendy Lesser, editor of *The Threepenny Review*, moderates a panel discussion on where to draw the line. Panelists include *New Yorker* critics Louis Menand and Joan Acocella and Columbia English professor James Shapiro. • 4/17 at 6 P.M. Columbia University School of Journalism, third floor (212-854-4150); free.

"Sylvia Plath Revealed: The Unabridged Journals"
Celebrating the publication of *The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath*, Anchor Books organizes a panel including the book's editor, Karen Kukil; Anchor editor LuAnn Walther; essayist Cynthia Ozick; and poet J. D. McClatchy. • 4/17 at 6:30 P.M. Celeste Bartos Forum, Humanities and Social Sciences Library, 455 Fifth Ave., at 42nd St. (212-930-0855); $10.

Valerie Harper
The TV star and recent author of *Today I Am a Ma'am and Other Musings on Life, Beauty, and Growing Older* talks about her life and work. • 4/17 at 8:15 P.M. The 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave. (212-415-5500); $20.

Thomas Foley
The onetime U.S. ambassador to Japan (and former speaker of the House) discusses the U.S.-Japan relationship, with George Packard, president of the United States-Japan Foundation, moderating. • 4/18 at 6:30 P.M. Japan Society, 333 E. 47th St. (212-832-1155); $10.

"Irish Immigrants in New York City, 1945–1995"
Linda Almeida, NYU adjunct professor of history and author of the new book with the title above, lectures on her work. • 4/19 at 7 P.M. Glucksman Ireland House at NYU, One Washington Mews (212-998-3950); $5.

"Holocaust: The Second Generation"
Marking Yom Hashoah, the day of Holocaust remembrance, Makor hosts a discussion about the way in which living generations will commemorate the era now that many first-hand witnesses are passing away. Participants include *Displaced Persons* author Joseph Berger, *Forward* culture editor Daniel Asa Rose, and psychologist Eva Fogelman. • 4/19 at 8 P.M. Makor, 35 W. 67th St. (212-601-1000); $8.

"Yom Hashoah Commemorative Lecture: Lessons of the Holocaust"
Professor Stephen M. Berk examines the salient aspects of the Holocaust and the lessons to be learned. • 4/19 at 8:15 P.M. The 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave. (212-415-5500); $12.

"Don Quixote Rediscovered"
Celebrating the anniversary of the death of Miguel de Cervantes (as well as Shakespeare's birthday), Tammy Grimes, Fritz Weaver, and Betsy von Furstenberg read from the new Modern Library *Don Quixote*, translated by eighteenth-century author Tobias Smollett. • 4/23 at 12:30 P.M. The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, at 55th St. (212-247-0490); free.

Manning Marable
The Columbia professor and pioneer of African-American studies lectures on "The Problems of American Government." • 4/23 at 6 P.M. The New School, 66 W. 12th St., Rm. 712 (212-229-5488); free.

The Written Word

Christine Davis and Nicole Krauss
The two authors read from new work at KGB's Monday-night poetry series. • 4/16 at 7:30 P.M. KGB Bar, 85 E. 4th St. (212-505-3360); free.

Amy Wilentz
The author reads from her critically acclaimed new novel, *Martyr's Crossing*, about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. • 4/17 at 7:30 P.M. Barnes & Noble, 2289 Broadway, at 82nd St. (212-362-8835); free.

Douglas Century
As part of the Museum of the City of New York's "Gotham Reader's Series" (this year titled "Gangs, Gangsters & Gangstas"), Century reads from *Street Kingdom: Five Years With the Franklin Avenue Posse*. • 4/18 at 6 P.M. Joe's Pub, 425 Lafayette St. (reservations required: 212-534-1672, ext. 257); $7.

Ruth Reichl
Gourmet's editor-in-chief talks about her new food book, *Comfort Me With Apples: Further Adventures at the Table*. • 4/18 at 6:30 P.M. Celeste Bartos Forum, Humanities and Social Sciences Library, 455 Fifth Ave., at 42nd St. (212-930-0855); $10.

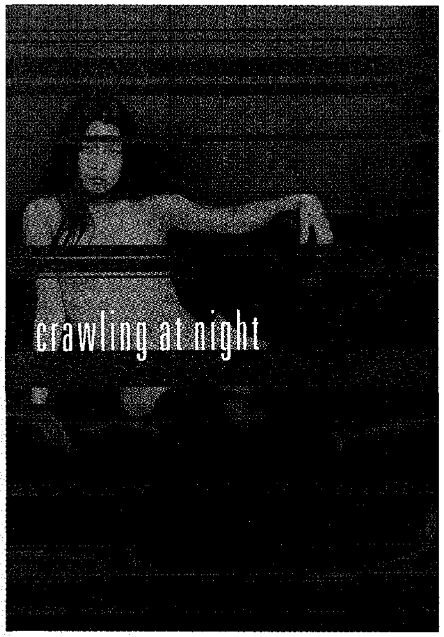
James Fenton
The poet and critic (*Out of Danger, The Strength of Poetry*) reads from his work. • 4/18 at 7 P.M. The Russian Samovar, 256 W. 52nd St. (212-757-0168); $3.

Joanna Hershon and Kate Walbert
Hershon reads from her first novel, *Swimming*, and Walbert, winner of the Pushcart and O. Henry prizes, reads from her first, *The Gardens of Kyoto*. • 4/18 at 7 P.M. Housing Works, 126 Crosby St. (212-334-3324); free.

"Best American Poetry 2000" Reading
"Selected Shorts" sponsors a reading of selections from Scribner's anthology. Frank McCourt, David

In Print

Raw Power



"It's kind of a corny moment, but it's true," **Nani Power** says of the day in 1997 when her midlife crisis kicked in. She was at a friend's funeral, "and at some point it crossed my mind: *Oh, my God, he was young, his life is over, and I'm just doing this job I hate. I'm catering.*" Not that Power, at various points a nanny in a trailer home, a sandwich seller in Rio, and a chef in a Japanese restaurant, was leading a conventional life. But the married 39-year-old mother of two needed a career change. Around that time, she and her family left New York, eventually settling in the irresistibly named hamlet of Halfway, Virginia. Power, who had never written seriously before, began working obsessively after taking a few workshops, rapidly dispensing with the conventions she was being taught. The resulting novel, *Crawling at Night*, about an assortment of Manhattan characters with severely traumatic histories—including a Japanese chef, a Chinese prostitute, and an alcoholic waitress—shifts constantly among conventional narrative, interior monologues, and dizzying streams of consciousness, with chapter headings consisting of sushi menus. Power, who also paints, learned experimentation from a family of artsy hippies who stood out among the parents of her private-school classmates. "My father is a photographer and writer, my stepfather's a sculptor, my grandparents were writers—we're not very good at holding nine-to-five jobs." Nor is Power the most conventional parent, given her taste for heavy metal bands and her public defense of Marilyn Manson in *Salon*. Her 9-year-old son likes him, too. "I don't mind if he listens to Marilyn Manson," says Power. "But a lot of kids in his class, their parents wouldn't approve of it. So they've been over to my house, and they're like, 'We hear you had a Marilyn Manson CD. Can we listen to it?' I have to say, 'No, I'm sorry. I don't think your mom and dad would like that.' " Power reads from her novel on April 24 at Barnes & Noble Astor Place. (See "The Written Word" for details.) B.K.

Lehman, Mark Strand, and others read from the works of Robert Pinsky, Lucille Clifton, Billy Collins, and Mary Jo Salter, to name a few. • 4/18 at 8 P.M. Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway, at 95th St. (212-894-5400); $18.

Joseph Berger
The veteran *Times* reporter and author of the new memoir, *Displaced Persons: Growing Up American After the Holocaust*, reads from his work. • 4/19 at 12:30 P.M. NYU's Bronfman Center, 7 E. 10th St. (212-998-4114); free.

Brad Kessler
The author of *Lick Creek* reads from his novel. • 4/19 at 7 P.M. Housing Works Used Book Café, 126 Crosby St. (212-334-3324); free.

Edmund White
The renowned author reads from his most recent work, *The Flaneur: A Stroll Through the Paradoxes of Paris*. • 4/19 at 7 P.M. Three Lives & Co., 154 W. 10th St. (212-741-2069); free.

Diane McWhorter
The author of the memoir *Carry Me Home* discusses her work. • 4/19 at 7:30 P.M. Barnes & Noble, 2289 Broadway, at 82nd St. (212-362-8835); free.

Raj Kamal Jha
The New Delhi author reads from his novel, *The Blue Bedspread*, now in paperback. • 4/22 at 7 P.M. KGB, 85 E. 4th St. (212-505-3360); free.

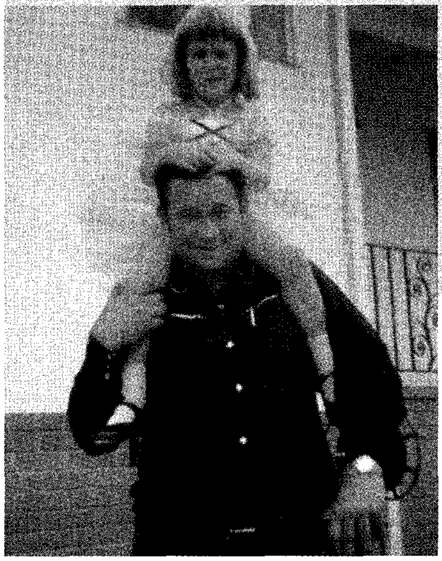
The Discovery/The Nation 2001 Poetry Contest Winners
The contest, specifically for unpublished poets, has launched the careers of Mark Strand, Katha Pollitt, Mary Jo Salter, and others. This year's four winners, each awarded $300 and publication in *The Nation*, read tonight. • 4/23 at 8:15 P.M. The 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave. (212-415-5500); $12.

Nani Power
The author reads from her debut novel, *Crawling at Night*, and signs copies. • 4/24 at 7:30 P.M. Barnes & Noble, 4 Astor Pl. (212-420-1322); free.

On Air

Just Shock Me

James Ronald Whitney, a 37-year-old vice-president at the investment firm Tucker Anthony, could easily pass for a Wall Street blue blood. Instead, he has written, directed, and produced an award-winning documentary exposing the ghastly truth about his poor white family. In his intimate and disturbing film **Just, Melvin: Just Evil**, Whitney reveals how his grandfather—a junkyard owner in Northern California—molested ten of his children and stepchildren and then apparently got away with raping and murdering the social worker who came to rescue them. Whitney interviewed his mother about her repeated suicide attempts, and talked with a bevy of prematurely toothless and alcoholic aunts whose lives Melvin destroyed—all of whom recall in excruciating detail how "Grampa Just" (pictured, with daughter June) started molesting them when they were toddlers. HBO reportedly paid more for the documentary than it has for any other film. But for Whitney, it isn't about the money: He hopes exposing the family skeletons during National Child Abuse Awareness Month will help advance the cause. The movie airs nationally on April 22. NINA BURLEIGH



Photograph courtesy of HBO.

Special Events

Tours

"Hoboken History and Tasting Tour"
The "sixth borough" is the focus of a Jersey trip to the homes of Sinatra and Stieglitz, sites associated with Thomas Edison and General Sherman, the Elysian Fields (birthplace of baseball), and various ethnic-food shops. • 4/21, 4/22 at 1:30 P.M. Call 212-465-3331 for reservations and meeting place; $15 includes food.

Little Odessa
Visit the stronghold of Soviet Jewish immigrants—revitalized by the latest immigration wave in the early nineties. Stops include Coney Island sites, snack stands, and an optional meal at a Russian restaurant. • 4/21, meet at 1:30 P. M. at the southeast corner of Sixth Ave. and 43rd St. or at 2:45 P.M. in Brooklyn, at the corner of Brighton Beach and Coney Island Aves. (212-265-2663); $5, meal additional $10.

Benefits

Metropolitan Opera Guild Luncheon
The 65th annual lunch, entitled "a Verdi celebration" and including a musical tribute by soprano Aprile Millo, supports the Met's education programs. • 4/18 at 11:30 A.M., lunch at 12:15 P.M. Grand Ballroom, Waldorf-Astoria, 301 Park Ave., at 49th St. (212-799-3100, ext. 2383); $150 and up.

House of Frame by Frame Fierce
The workshop in photo-cutout animation specifically for HIV public-service announcements holds a benefit screening with a cabaret and raffle. • 4/19 at 6 P.M. Pegasus, 119 E. 60th St. (212-921-0081); $15.

Tribute to Maya Angelou
The Aaron Davis Hall Harlem Renaissance Award goes to Angelou, with Charles Rangel, Amiri Baraka, and Sonia Sanchez attending and Paul Schaeffer, Dionne Warwick, Max Roach, and others performing. The gala event includes pre-award cocktails and a buffet supper afterward. • 4/23 at 7:30 P.M., cocktails at 6 P.M. Aaron Davis Hall, Convent Ave. at 133rd St. (212-650-8970); $150–$250.

Exhibits

"¡Propaganda! Cuban Political and Film Posters"
Those two categories may sum up the majority of advertising in the tightly controlled communist nation—and perhaps, if this show of 100 silk-screened works is well received, the island's own answer to ubiquitous Soviet kitsch. • Through 6/29. American Institute of Graphic Arts, 164 Fifth Ave., at 22nd St. (212-807-1990); free.

Events

Yom Hashoah Events
The Jewish day of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust (stretching from sunset on the 19th to sunset on the 20th) will be commemorated across town. Bigger memorials include an all-night reading of the names of all Belgian Jewish victims at Stephen Wise Free Synagogue and an evening of tribute, song, and prayer at Sutton Place Synagogue. The most prominent event takes place on the 22nd, the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, at Temple Emanu-El. Survivors will light candles and speakers will include Charles Schumer, Governor Pataki, Mayor Giuliani, and Alan Dershowitz. • Sutton Place tribute: 4/18 at 7:30 P.M. Sutton Place Synagogue, 225 E. 51st St. (212-593-3300); free. Night-long vigil: 4/19, 10 P.M. to 4/20, 7:30 A.M. Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, 38 W. 68th St. (212-580-0099, ext. 213); free. Annual Gathering of Remembrance: 4/22 at 1 P.M. Temple Emanu-el, One E. 65th St. (212-968-1800, ext. 104 for required tickets); donations suggested.

New York Antiquarian Book Fair
At the 41st annual fair devoted to collectible books, 200 international booksellers exhibit all types of rare books, autographs, maps, first editions, and other fare. • 4/19–4/22, Preview 4/19, 5–9 P.M.; 4/20, noon–8 P.M.; 4/21, noon–7 P.M.; 4/22, noon–5 P.M. Park Avenue Armory, Park Ave. at 67th St. (212-777-5218); $12 per day, $25 three-day pass.

Sports

MS Walks
The New York City Multiple Sclerosis Society holds two MS walks this weekend to raise funds for MS services, programs, and research. Saturday's walk in Staten Island starts in Richmond Town; Sunday's route in Manhattan begins at the World Trade Center Plaza. Walkers can choose from 2.5-to-12.5-mile walks. • 4/21, check-in at 9:30 A.M., walk at 10:30 A.M.; 4/22, check-in at 9:30 A.M., walk at 11 A.M. (212-463-9791 or www.msnyc.org).

Niketown Run for the Parks
Join the New York Road Runners Club for this four-

Game Week

HOME AWAY ▨

	Mon: 4/16	Tues: 4/17	Weds: 4/18	Thur: 4/19	Fri: 4/20	Sat: 4/21	Sun: 4/22
NETS		CHI METRO 7:30 P.M.			END REGULAR SEASON		
KNICKS	CLE MSG 7:30 P.M.		DET FSNY 7:30 P.M.			NBA PLAYOFFS SCHEDULE TBA	
YANKEES	BOS MSG 11:05 A.M.	TOR MSG 7:05 P.M.	TOR MSG 7:05 P.M.	TOR MSG 7:05 P.M.	BOS FOX 7:05 P.M.	BOS FOX 1:05 P.M.	BOS FOX 1:05 P.M.
METS	MON FSNY 7:10 P.M.	MON FSNY 7:10 P.M.	MON FSNY 1:10 P.M.		CIN FSNY 7:05 P.M.	CIN WPIX 1:15 P.M.	CIN WPIX 1:15 P.M.
DEVILS		CAR TBA 7:30 P.M.	CAR TBA 7:30 P.M.		CAR TBA 7:30 P.M.		CAR TBA 7:30 P.M.

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Solutions to last week's puzzles

■	T	R	E	N	D	Y	■	A	S	I	D	E	S	■
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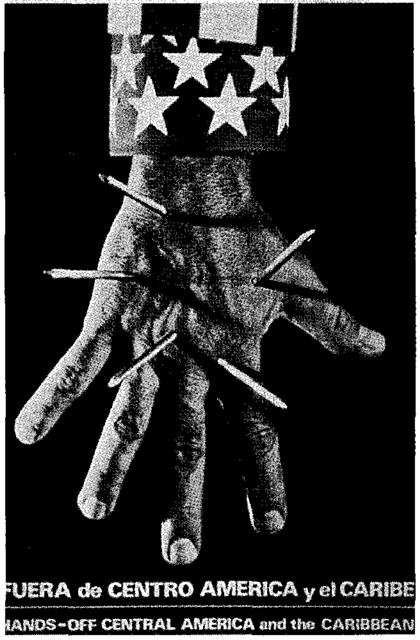
miler and pee-wee run through Central Park. Benefits the City Parks Foundation. Starts on West Drive at 67th St. Numbers and T-shirts may be picked up prior to the race at Niketown, 6 E. 57th St., noon to 7 P.M. 4/19–4/20, 11:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. 4/21, or race day at the registration tent near the start from 8 to 9:45 A.M. • 4/22 at 10 A.M. (212-860-4455); nonmembers $17, limited race-day entries $22.

Pediatric Cancer Foundation Walkathon
The seventh annual five-mile walk to raise funds for pediatric cancer starts and finishes in Riverside Park at 79th St. • 4/22, check-in at 10:30 A.M., walk at 11:30 A.M. (914-777-3127); $10, $5 under 16.

Opening

Che and Che Alike

Though Communist Cuban posters like GET OUT OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (pictured) bore little relation to their pre-Castro predecessors—mostly American advertisements—they were formally indebted to American Pop Art, making them a rather subtler form of capitalist critique. But a variety of other visual influences (Polish, Czech, Japanese) help make the 100 silk-screened works in the American Institute of Graphic Arts' new exhibit, **¡Propaganda! Cuban Political and Film Posters**, considerably more eclectic than those streamlined Soviet placards that seem to have popped up on every living-room wall from here to Park Slope. And they're probably easier to smuggle than cigars. (See "Exhibits" for details.)


UERA de CENTRO AMERICA y el CARIBE
ANDS-OFF CENTRAL AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN

Photograph courtesy of AIGA.

Classical & Dance

Performance

Edited by Alicia Zuckerman

No Strings Attached

"One morning last March, I got a phone call from Buckingham Palace. It was completely out of the blue," says **Catrin Finch**, a third-year student at London's Royal Academy of Music who makes her New York City debut this Tuesday. It was a shock, she says, because she hadn't auditioned for the post of royal harpist to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, which was last filled during Queen Victoria's reign, in 1871. Prince Charles had heard her play a few years earlier at his 50th-birthday party, and wanted her for the job—but while he had no questions about her musicianship, the Palace couldn't take chances on her manners. "I had a few etiquette lessons, actually," she says, laughing. "I had to learn how to treat the royals right." She saw her first harp recital at the age of 4: "I was completely besotted with it," remembers Finch, who'll be 21 next week. For her 6th birthday, her parents got her a little Celtic harp; at 16, she left her hometown in Wales to study at London's Purcell School; and in January 2000, she won first prize in the Young Concert Artists International Auditions—another in a string of prestigious awards. When her two-year term is up, she hopes the prince will give the opportunity to another young Welsh harpist (the harp is Wales's unofficial national instrument), but Finch has set the standard. She's as taken with the position as she is with the instrument, and she's hard-pressed to think of a single negative thing about it. "It's slightly taken over my life," she concedes. "I am known always as 'the royal harpist' now, but I'm not complaining at all. No way." (See "Classical.") A.Z.

Photograph by Christian Steiner.

Classical Music

Catrin Finch
"Young Concert Artists" presents the royal harpist to the prince of Wales. Program includes Bach, Debussy, Britten. 4/17 at 8. • 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave. (212-307-6655); $15–$20.

Robert Taub
Returns this year for another series exploring Beethoven's piano sonatas. This week includes the "Moonlight" sonata. 4/17, 5/1, 5/15 at 8. • Merkin Concert Hall, 129 W. 67th St. (212-501-3330); $20, $50 for all three.

Morton Subotnick
Electronic-music composer and co-founder of the San Francisco Tape Music Center presents his latest interactive work, *Gestures: It Begins With Color*, with computerized vocals by Joan LaBarbara. Also the New York premiere of *Repent*, featuring Thomas Buckner. 4/18–4/21 at 8. • The Kitchen, 512 W. 19th St. (212-255-5793 ext. 11); $15.

Kathleen Battle
The epitome of divadom performs Ravel's *Shéhérazade*, arias from Massenet's *Manon*, Schubert's *Viola*, and traditional spirituals. 4/19 at 8. • Carnegie Hall, Seventh Ave. at 57th St. (212-247-7800); $21–$88.

Eos Orchestra
The orchestra's first-ever guest conductor, H. K. Gruber, leads a concert that includes two of his own works and Weill's *Songs* and *Der Neue Orpheus*. 4/19 at 8. • Ethical Culture Society, 2 W. 64th St. (212-691-6415); $25–$45.

New York Philharmonic
Beethoven, Webern, and Schumann are on the program. 4/19–4/21 at 8. • Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center (212-721-6500); $19–$80.

David Krakauer
Best known as a clarinetist with Klezmer Madness, he gives a rare classical recital with pianist Brian Zeger. They'll play works by Brahms, Janácek, Debussy, Reich, and Messiaen. 4/21 at 8:30. • Merkin Concert Hall, 129 W. 67th St. (212-501-3330); $20.

American Composers Orchestra
Presents "Hollywood," with works by David Raskin and Bernard Herrmann's score to Hitchcock's *Psycho*. 4/22 at 3. • Carnegie Hall, Seventh Ave. at 57th St. (212-247-7800); $16–$46.

St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble
Festival of Czech Music continues with a program featuring Reicha, Janácek, and Dvorák. 4/22 at 2. • Brooklyn Museum of Art, 200 Eastern Parkway (212-594-6100); $20.

Opera

Amato Opera
Mozart's *Don Giovanni* is the fifth production of the company's season. 4/13–5/6, weekends. Times vary. • Amato Opera, 319 Bowery (212-228-8200); $25.

The Metropolitan Opera
Ariadne auf Naxos closes on 4/20 and *Samson et Dalila* on 4/21. *The Makropulos Case* opens on 4/23. *Lulu* and *Un Ballo in Maschera* also run this week. Call for program times, or visit www.metopera.org. • Metropolitan Opera, Lincoln Center (212-362-6000); $25–$250.

New York City Opera
De Tote Stadt, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, *Rigoletto*, and *La Bohème* are all onstage this week. Call for program details and times, or visit www.nycopera.com. • New York State Theater, Lincoln Center (212-870-5570); $25–$98.

Julius Rudel
The man who can boast a 175-opera repertoire leads the Manhattan School of Music Opera Theater's production of Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*. 4/18, 4/20 at 8; 4/22 at 2:30. • Manhattan School of Music, John C. Borden Auditorium, Broadway and 122nd St. (212-749-2802, ext. 428); $15–$20.

Opera Orchestra of New York
Presents a concert performance of Giacomo Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots*. 4/23 at 7. • Carnegie Hall, Seventh Ave. at 57th St. (212-799-1982); $22–$95.

Dance

Ballet Tech
The spring season of Eliot Feld's company features visiting dancers Donlin Foreman, Buffy Miller, and NYC Ballet principal dancer Damian Woetzel; eighteen different dances, including *Adieu*, *Coup de Couperin*, *Yo Shakespeare*, *The Gods Amused*, and *Paper Tiger*. Music is varied: from Debussy to Hugo Wolf to Leon Redbone. 4/16–4/22. Times vary. • Joyce Theater, 175 Eighth Ave. (212-242-0800); $35.

Ballet Memphis
Makes its New York City debut with a program that includes Mark Gooden's *Angels in the Architecture*, set to Copeland's *Appalachian Spring*, and *Memphis*, set to popular blues numbers. 4/18–4/19 at 8. • The Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College, 68th St. bet. Park and Lexington Aves. (212-772-4448); $25.

The Tiffany Mills Company
Presents "Triptych," an evening of three works including the premiere of the "dance noir" *Half-Hinged*, with music by Paul Dresher. 4/19–4/22 at 8. • Joyce SoHo, 155 Mercer St. (212-334-7479); $15.

David Roussève
The choreographer returns to P.S. 122 after a ten-year absence in his first evening of solo work in even longer. *The Ten Year Chat* is a kind of retrospective of his repertoire. 4/19–4/22 at 8:30. • P.S. 122, 150 First Ave. (212-477-5288); $15.

Ground Rules

This section emphasizes classical concerts, recitals, and public outdoor performances (but only the premeditated ones), and includes the occasional jazz concert if it is held, say, in a public space. For rock concerts and club information, see "Nightlife."

cue

Kids

Edited by Susan Avery

Happening

General Studies

Right on the heels of *Gladiator*'s conquering stampede at the Oscars, the Nassau County Museum of Art, in Rosalyn Harbor, is jumping on the battlefield bandwagon, bringing kids a couple of millennia forward to a different global war ground. When they visit its exhibit **Napoleon and His Age**, youngsters will be able to rub shoulders this weekend with a live Bonapartian brigade, try on uniforms, and test their trigger fingers. A guided tour of Napoleonic-era paintings by Jacques-Louis David and Anne-Louis Girodet and sculptures by Antonio Canova, among others, demonstrates how art is a form of biography. "We want the kids to slow down when looking at a portrait," says education coordinator Jean Henning. "What clues does the artist give you that tell you something about a person?" The tour is followed by a workshop where participants create their own self-portraits. Each is given an assortment of Napoleonic props and clothing; Cray-pas; and the most important tool, a mirror. When it's all over (the session goes from 10:30 A.M. to noon), try a lunch at the museum's Café Musée, where the menu will include chicken Marengo, finger sandwiches Josephine, quiche, and croque monsieurs. Outside, the museum sits on 145 grassy acres sprinkled with contemporary sculptures, so consider a picnic. *Vive L'Île Longue*. (See "Children's Events.") S.A.

Children's Events

Little Corporals

Eventually, we all have to learn European history. The Nassau County Museum of Art offers it up on a silver platter with a session for kids, "Napoleon and His Age." The day includes a guided tour of the exhibit, an art workshop, and performances by the emperor's brigade. Preregistration required. • 4/21-4/22, 10:30 A.M.–noon; 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor, Long Island (516-484-9337); $12 for one adult and one child, $7 for each additional person.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

This Holocaust-memorial performance, *The Last, The Very Last . . . Butterfly*, is a collection of poems, narratives, and drawings by children who passed through the Terezin transit camp between 1942 and 1944. The production offers glimpses into the heads of kids surrounded by hate. • 4/22 at 3 P.M., The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave., at 92nd St. (212-423-3200); $10.

Because You're Really Smart

Get a clue. Your kid is waiting for you to give him paws up that you got tickets for *Blue's Clues Live* at Radio City. The musical production sends the audience and a character named Steve in search of "the most spectacular place of all." The quest takes them through Storybook Forest and outer space to discover the answer. Handy-dandy notebooks and crayons supplied. This is a great show for kids who can't sit still. • 4/20–4/27, Sixth Ave. at 50th St. (212-307-7171); $26–$45.

Kids on Film

The Brooklyn Academy of Music hosts its third annual "Kids Film Festival," featuring more than 30 international films, both full-length and shorts. Highlights include celluloid versions of *Goodnight Moon*, narrated by Susan Sarandon, *Leo the Late Bloomer*, and *How Dinosaurs Learned to Fly*. Kids get to vote on their favorites during the Bammie Awards. • 4/21–4/22, BAM Rose Cinema, 30 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn (718-777-FILM); $9, $6 for kids 11 and younger.

Sleeping Beauty

The Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre in Central Park shows its updated production of *Sleeping Beauty*. The scenery, part of which was designed to resemble the Park's Belvedere Castle, is a perfect backdrop for marionette unicorns, multicultural fairy godparents, a giant snapping turtle, and good and evil princes. • Tuesdays through Fridays at 10:30 A.M. and noon, Saturdays at 1 P.M. through June, Central Park at W. 81st St. (212-988-9093); $5, $4 for kids.

To Reminisce With My Old Friends

The Children's Springtime Garden Party at the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden includes a meet and greet with Mother Goose, storytelling, a museum tour, nineteenth-century games, and a sing-along. • 4/22 from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M., 421 E. 61st St. (212-838-6878); $6, $4 for kids 11 and younger.

Wooly Bully

Bag the trip to Ireland (risk Mad Cow disease?) and take the kids to New York City's countryside: the Prospect Park and Queens Zoos. This weekend, both venues offer country-fair-type events. Prospect Park agenda: sheep shearing on 4/21 at 2:30 P.M., 4/22 at 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.; butter churning, hay raking, sack races, farm storytelling, barnyard arts and crafts, and country music all weekend from noon to 4:30 P.M. Queens Zoo agenda: sheep and goat shearing on 4/22 from noon to 5 P.M., and wool craftmaking all weekend from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. • 4/21–4/22, Prospect Park Zoo, 450 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn (718-399-7339); Queens Zoo, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, 53-31 111th St. (718-271-1500); $2.50, $1.25 for seniors, 50 cents for kids, free for those 2 and younger.

Choo Choo Concert

Take the subway to the "Rails and Tales" family concert of classical and popular music about trains by the Orchestra of St. Luke's. The program includes "The Little Train to Caipiera" by Heitor Villa-Lobos, "The Little Engine That Could" by Nicolas Demos, and Billy Strayhorn's "Take the A Train." A preconcert program begins at 1 P.M. with storytelling and instrument demos. • 4/21 at 2 P.M., Carnegie Hall, 154 W. 57th St. (212-247-7800); $5.

Single Parent Dating

The 92nd St. Y has always been a great place to hook up, even if you're just walking by. Knowing that single parents have a harder time than most, the Y offers "Date Bait for Single Parents." After a brief period of introductions, parents mingle and complete forms noting those they're interested in meeting again. A computer spits out a report to find people who've chosen each other. (If there's no match, nobody's the wiser.) • 4/22 at 6:30 P.M., Lexington Ave. at 92nd St. (212-415-5500).

Cooking Kids

Start tending to that tender palate. The "Little Chefs" program at the Alley Pond Environmental Center shows kids, ages 3 to 4½, the pleasures of preparing, sharing, and tasting a variety of nutritious food. • 4/22 from 10 A.M. to noon, 228-06 Northern Blvd., Douglaston (718-229-4000); $11.

Earth's Ocean Day

Celebrate Earth Day at the New York Aquarium. Learn about the "Living Seascape" program that works to solve conflicts between wildlife and humans to keep the waters sustainable for both. Other organizations will be on hand to educate the masses on what goes on beneath the surface. Free gifts. • 4/22, W. 8th St. and Surf Ave., Coney Island, Brooklyn (718-265-FISH); $9.75, $6 seniors and kids 2–12, youngers are free.

Smallest Gal Pal

We don't ordinarily push toys, but this was too cute to resist. Remember Polly Pocket? She's back, far cooler than before. Fashion Polly, Super Stylin' Mall, and Bedroom Purse come with an assortment of miniature clothes and accessories that are easy on little fingers. The dancing child will enjoy the Magic Movin' Ultimate Clubhouse, with its flashing lights and music. Party on, Polly. • At toy stores.

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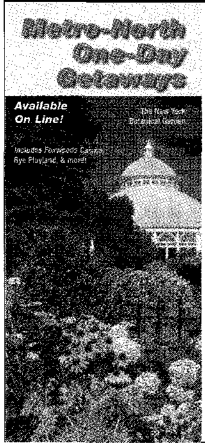
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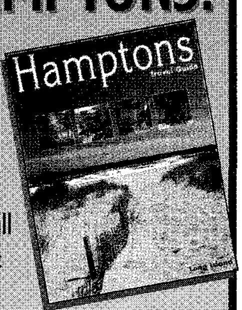

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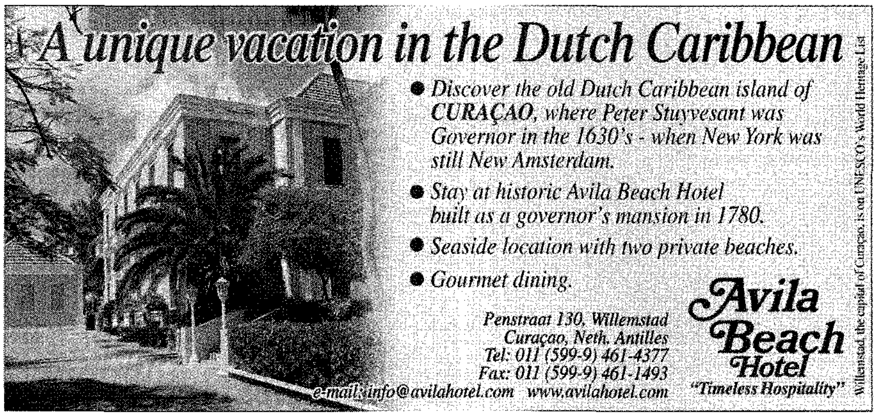

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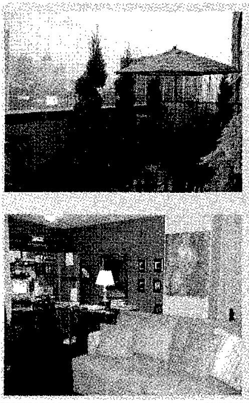

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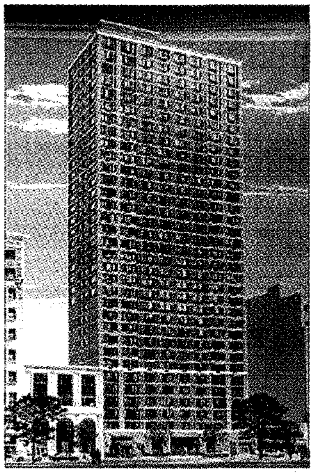

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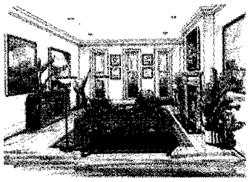

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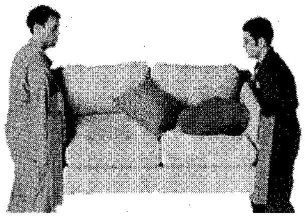

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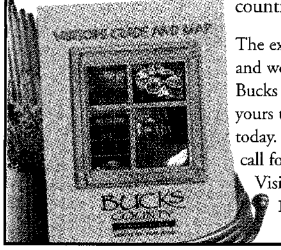

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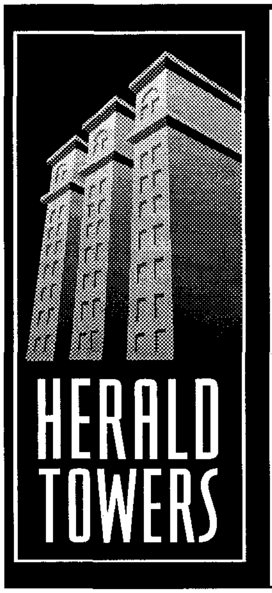

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Continued on page 210.

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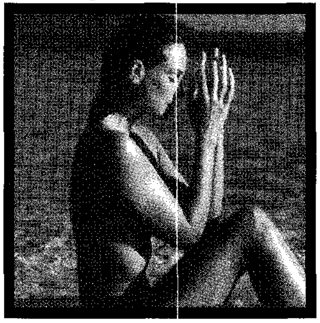

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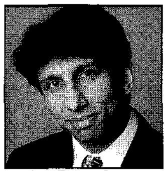

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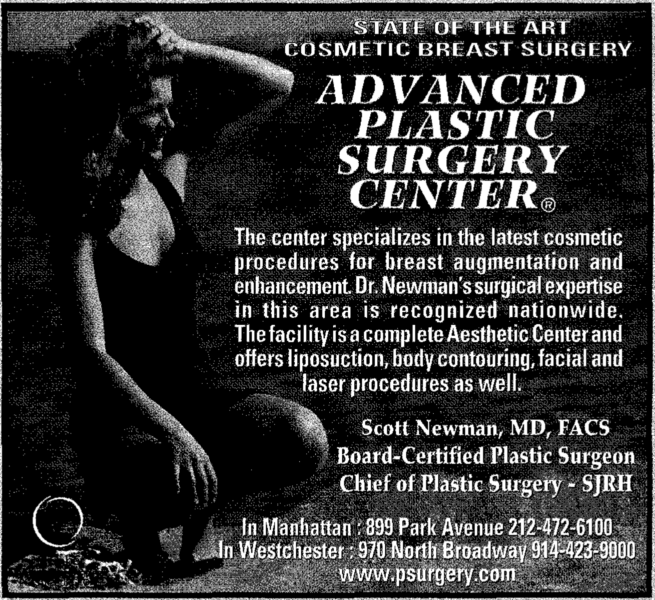

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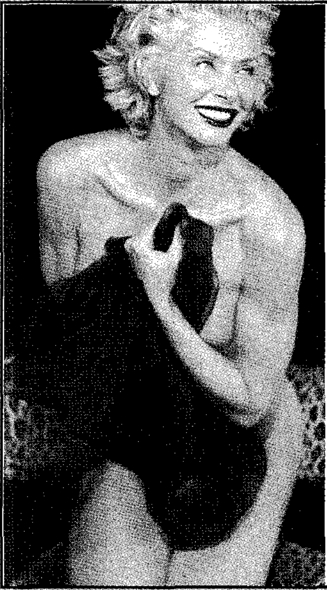

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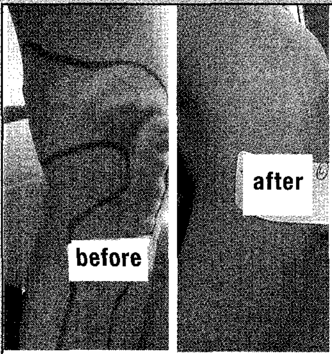

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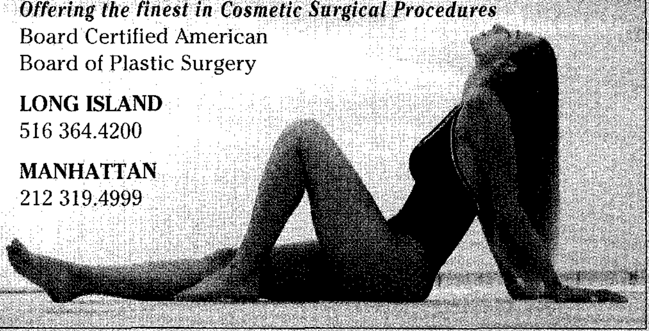

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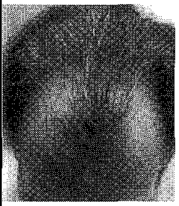

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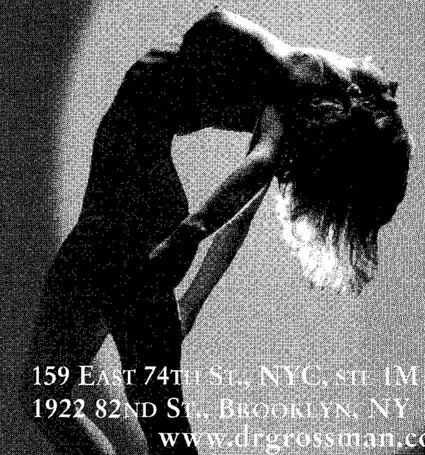

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Continued from page 207.

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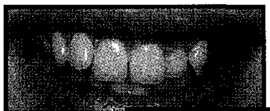

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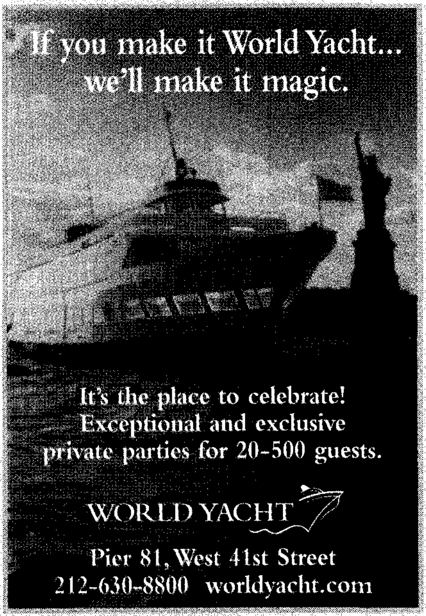
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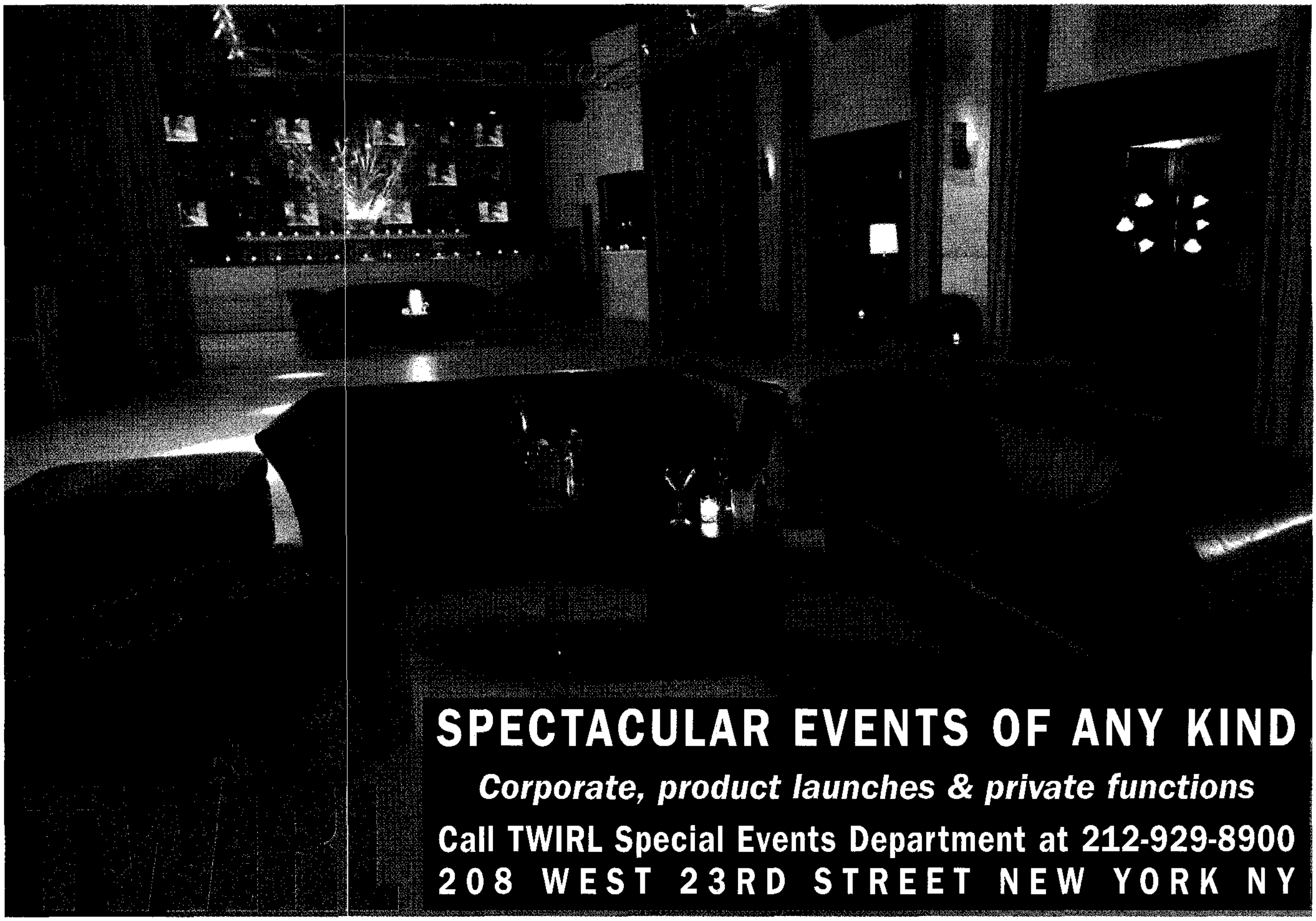
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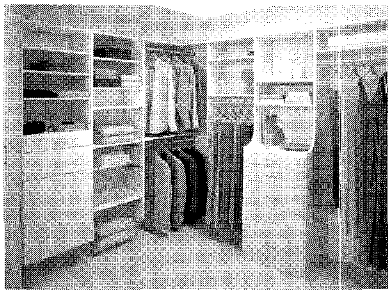

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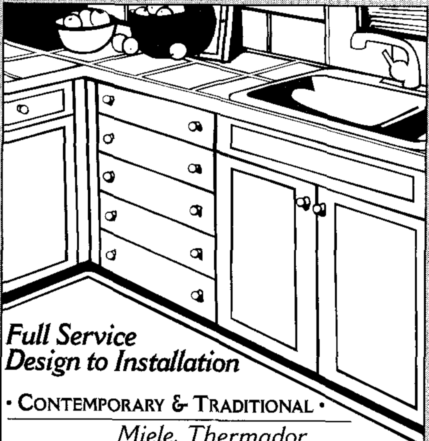

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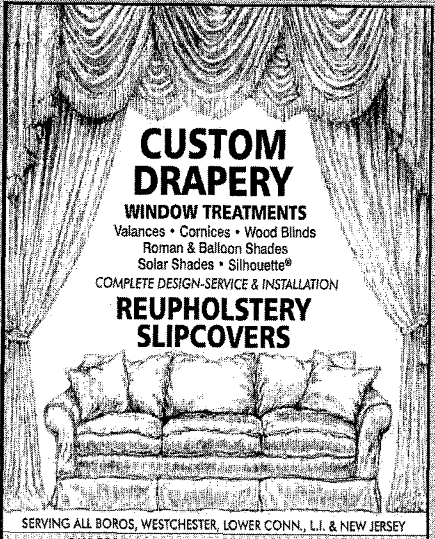

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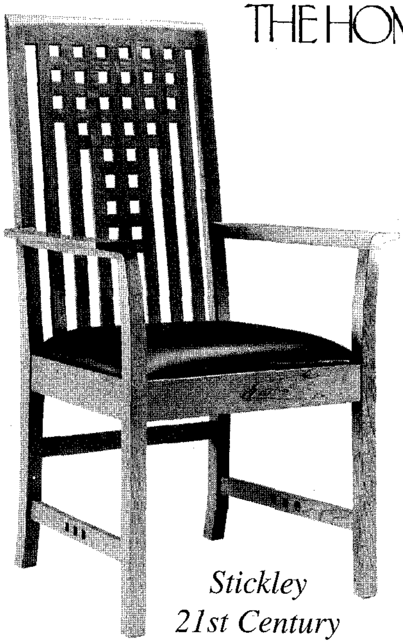

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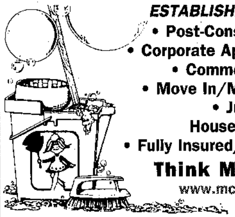

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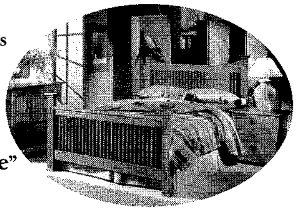

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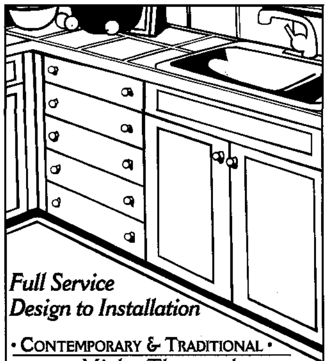

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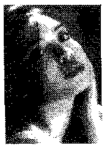
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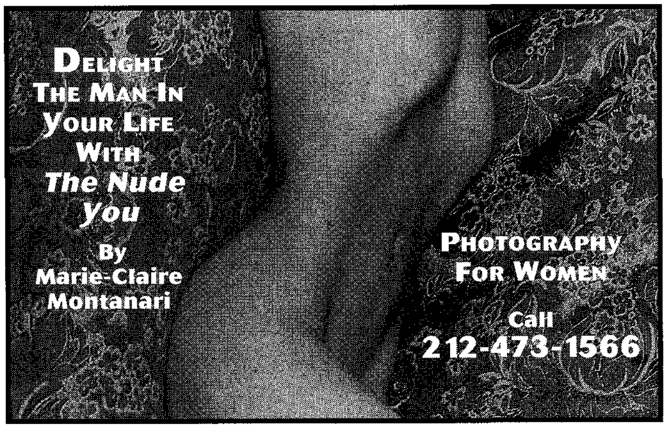
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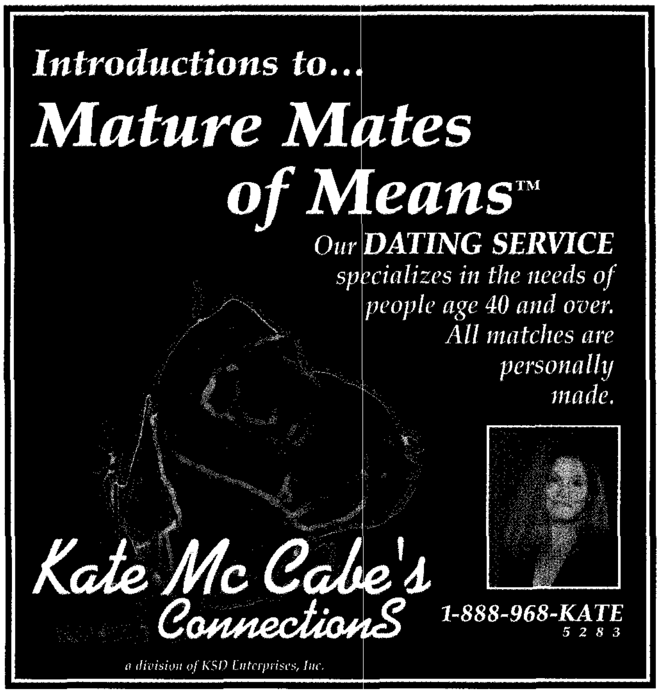
This Attractive, Green-Eyed—Petite lady loves the allure and adventure of life, and seeks a best friend to share it with. A busy career has brought success on one front, but I'd like the hand of Mister Wonderful to accompany me along the rest of the way. If you're 40-50-something, have your head together, a sense of humor and a happy outlook on life, please drop me a note/picture/call. 7532 ✉☎

Gay, Good-Looking, In-Shape—60, gentleman, accomplished, stylish, affluent, 5'11", 175 lbs - interested in arts, travel, gardens, country/city life style. Seeks sensitive, bright, creative younger counterpart for serious exclusive relationship. Photo essential. 7521 ✉

Company President—Very handsome, athletic build, excellent health, intelligent, single white male, 45, looks 35 (really), with developed sense of humor, seeks very attractive, single white female, 27-35 (no children, please), slim, fit, who wants to explore everything life has to offer. Recent photo/note/phone. You won't be disappointed. 7505 ✉☎



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Very Attractive Blond—Bright, sensual, charming, warm, genuine, 30s, Jewish (nonreligious). Seeking smart, attractive, affectionate man with depth of character, who would like to share his life and passion with a special woman. Note and photo, please. 7588 ✉

Successful, Pretty Manhattan Attorney—Seeking my soul mate. Italian, Catholic, down-to-earth, spontaneous, fun, passionate, generous, cultured, somewhat full-figured yet athletic and curvaceous, and I love being a woman. You are a handsome, accomplished, educated professional man of substance and integrity, 37-45, with a big heart, sincere, centered, cultured, financially and emotionally secure, seeking a serious relationship with generosity of spirit. You look into a woman's soul to find what you have been searching for. Note/phone/photo a must, please. soulmate213@aol.com. 7541✉☎

Beautiful, Leggy, Sweet—Warmhearted, vivacious, laughter-loving, slim Jewish lady, 5'6", with spunk, sparkle and a charmed life. Relish French films, opera, selected Jewish groups, theater, Paris, fine dining, dancing alone in my living room, photography and exploring Manhattan. Ready to meet kind, fun, fit, Jewish, altruistic, self-made man, 40-55, with class, culture, sophistication and good values. 7528 ✉☎

Be The One—To inspire me to be all I can be as the man you want in your life. My inspiration comes from a beautiful woman (inside first, then outside), who enjoys life - both the finer things and the everyday things, and has a place in her heart for children. You are very attractive, slim and fit, intelligent, successful, independent, between 25-35 years of age, spontaneous and full of great surprises (like a package under a Christmas tree). I am a 39-year-old male of Italian heritage (born and raised in NY), successful, good-looking (I am told), divorced with children (they live with their mother). I enjoy fine dining and great wines, but I am just as comfortable with a burger and beer. I am well-traveled, sophisticated (and down-to-earth). I enjoy skiing, scuba diving, sailing, reading, walking along a tropical beach or an old European city, the Hamptons, NY and the country. Italian cooking is what I enjoy doing the most. Note/photo/phone, please. 7489✉

Gregarious American/Spanish—Gentleman, highly successful and educated, health-care professional. I am Jewish, 34, 5'11", 185 lbs, handsome, blue-eyed, athletic, sincere, funny and sometimes silly. Seek classy, witty, naturally pretty and slender, Jewish young lady, 24-32. Note/photo a must. 7535 ✉

High-Spirited Brunette—Sensitive and sensual, with terrific looks and blue eyes, standing 5'7", slim and very fit, is interested in meeting a single man between the ages of 45 and 58. You enjoy a successful life, as I do, are attractive, playful and fit. You have a kind heart, are secure with yourself and ready to share great times with someone special, like me! 7454✉☎

Honest, Sincere—Divorced Jewish male (NJ), attorney, 52, 5'10", handsome, nonsmoker, caring and considerate. Enjoy theater, movies, concerts, travel, volunteer activities. In search of nice, pretty, compatible woman (37-47). Photo/note. 7452✉☎

I'll Adore You—Handsome, huggable, playful, successful Jewish professional, great catch, athletic, fit, intelligent, humorous, seeks classy, attractive lady under 48. Phone/photo/note. 7484 ✉☎

Knight-Errant—Evolved spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, Italian-American CEO, two MAs, 5'8", 175 lbs, brown hair/eyes, chiseled body, great complexion, very handsome, passionate, romantic, charismatic, with interests in world mythology, Eastern thought, literature, the arts, travel, the gym four times a week, with fabulous home - 20-foot fireplace, two patios, just miles from the city. Seeks the woman, 45-52, who thinks I don't exist. Must be beautiful inside and out. Note/photo a must. 7600 ✉☎

Spring Fever—Playful, green-eyed, tall, slender, extremely pretty, PhD-level female seeks adventurous, athletic male, warm, sensitive, highly educated, highly successful, 43-51, for serious romance. 7547✉☎

Gucci/Home Depot—Beautiful, sophisticated fertility nurse in Westchester, who is exotic, 5'3", slim, 40s, spontaneous, creative, adventurous, spirited, playful, sexy and strong in body and soul, Italian and Jewish by birth and assimilation, great cook, delights in exploring new restaurants by cuisine and location. Passions include traveling/staying home by the fire, beaches, sports, dancing, music, family, friends and chocolate. Can read directions and find my way around Home Depot and Madison and 57th. Seeking intelligent, handsome, giving, self-confident, athletic, passionate, romantic, financially secure man, 40-50s, with a great sense of humor, who knows how to use his tools - literally and figuratively. Let's meet in the lumber department and start to build a meaningful, loving, permanent relationship. Recent photo/note/phone. 7453 ✉☎

Best Friend You'll Ever Have!—Warm, funny, playful (perhaps a bit mischievous), adventurous and down-to-earth, handsome doc (youthful 42), who is also caring, sensitive, affectionate and well-analyzed (Jewish, though you need not be), seeking similar qualities in a warm, engaging, self-aware and fun-loving woman (27-37), who is also creative, bright, attractive and sexy! I seek a partner who can compromise without being compromised, and who is interested in a long-term relationship, possibly leading to marriage and family (I already have the SUV, Volvo and golden retriever). Note with photo appreciated; will reciprocate. steve940@pix.net or 7591 ✉

Handsome, Blue-Eyed Professional—6'4", enjoys movies, outdoors, cooking. Seeks Christian woman, 25-36. 7503✉☎

Exceptionally Attractive Asian Female—Very pretty, shapely, intelligent, cultured, well-traveled, seeks refined, successful, kind and generous white male, 40-60, for serious relationship. Photo. 7471 ✉

Attractive Lady Seeking Nice Guy—Tall, blue-eyed blond seeking her soul mate. Photo/phone. 7465 ✉☎

Italiana At Heart, Jewish By Birth—Sophisticated, pretty, romantic lass, 38, with a Botticelli face and passion for travel, art, movies. You: genuine, attractive, 35-45, with similar qualities, to make this my first and last ad. 7595 ✉☎

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Pretty Woman - Caring Woman—Blond, blue eyes, elegant, slim and shapely, great smile. Affectionate, bright professional who loves skiing, sail, pro sports (Giants season tickets), dancing, opera to Springsteen, and spending quality time with family. Seeks financially secure, genuinely nice widower or divorced gentleman, 56-68, for always. Photo. 7589 ✉

Widowed Christian Male—58, 5'10", 170, brown/brown, good-looking, many interests - Cabo to Monet and a million in-between. Seeking very attractive, slim, intelligent lady who's fun and travel-ready. LI. Will exchange photos. 7487 ✉

Will Be 35 In April—5'2", green eyes, light brown hair, size 2, shapely, sensual, healthy, Italian-American, ready to settle down and start a family with a nice-looking professional man, 38 plus. Likes should include fine dining, theater, the beach and spending time with family. Phone/photo. 7557 ✉

Single Jewish Male, 46—Very attractive airline pilot living in Manhattan. Handsome, witty, warm, accomplished and ambitious professional. Big on the mountains, movies, caesar salad, travel, and good conversation. Seeks Jewish woman serious about having kids, who is communicative, incredibly smart, accomplished, secure, playful and ready for a relationship based on insight, gentleness and mutual respect. Note/photo. 7556 ✉

Mediterranean Passion—I am elegant, elite-educated professional, cultured (from opera to Proust), ballerina-slim brunette, 39, who will enchant a gentleman, 45-60, of character and sincerity. You are a high-level senior executive or financier with the refinement and means to enjoy life. Within an enduring romantic relationship, we embark on a voyage evoking "20s" splendor. 7542 ✉

You're A Warm, Passionate, Fit—Sensual, fun-loving, 26-40-year-old Asian, Caucasian or Indian woman who loves romance, laughing, the outdoors, going to concerts, museums and good conversation. I'm a 37-year-old professional male, Ivy-educated, interested in a serious relationship. Note/photo. 7490 ✉

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Senior Male—Over 65, youthful, happy, slim, 5'8", seeks compatible lady for companionship, travel, togetherness. 7544 ✉

Good-Looking Guy—39, attorney, 6', athletic, never-married, seeks very attractive, slim, 26-36-year-old woman for relationship. Note/photo. 7590 ✉☎

Attractive Japanese Businesswoman—50-plus, petite, stylish, cultured, warm, caring. Enjoys books, arts, antiquing, world travel. Seeks intelligent, warm, worldly gentleman. 7478 ✉

Real Mensch, Tired Of Games—45, divorced, childless Westchester physician, 5'10", in good shape, full head of hair, ready now for love, marriage and children. Seeks Jewish female, 35-40, who is as seriously family-minded as I. Note/photo preferred. 7455 ✉ ☎

Seeking Attractive Asian Princess—By good-looking Caucasian male, 34, successful and caring. Photo, please. 7540 ✉☎

Gorgeous—Smart, sensual blond, 43. Svelte, nice figure, Sophia Loren cheekbones, big dark eyes, long legs. NYC born and bred. Successful, down-to-earth, romantic. Very visual, physical, dynamic, with fun warm heart, adventurous streak. Passionate about living. More interested in people/culture than museums. Enjoys movies, celebrations, travel, dancing, double entendres, Alaska. Seeks bright, confident, dynamic, successful, attractive man, 5'9" plus, 35-50. Prefers photo. 7609 ✉☎

Nice Guy, Strong Values—Handsome, fit professional, 45, likes engaging talk, the outdoors, NYC culture. Kind, thoughtful, reliable, fun, self-aware, doesn't snore. Seeks warm, smart, loving lady. 7554 ✉☎

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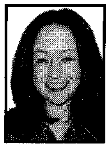

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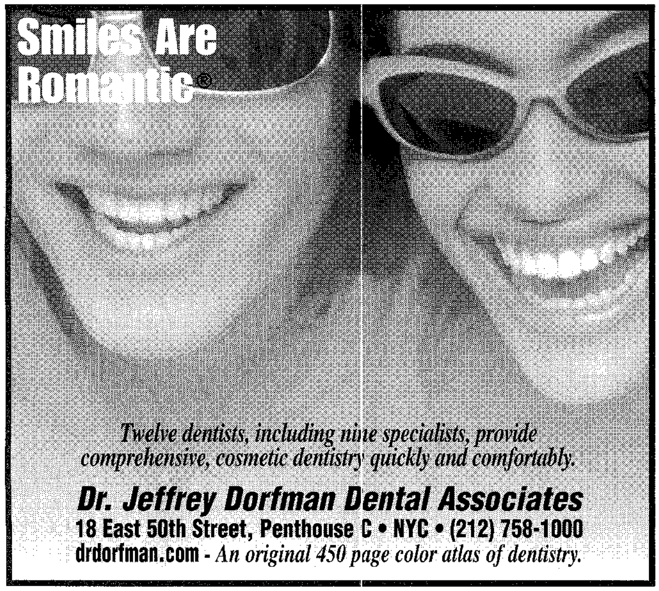

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Handsome, Single White Gentleman—(JD, 37, 5'11", 165, gentile) seeks smart, feminine/pretty soul mate; she's athletic, her interests are artistic and cultural, and she's sweet at heart. Note/photo. 7433✉☎

Alluring Blond—European background, 43, size 6, seeks a mature, successful man over 40, for travel, romance and a long-term relationship. Photo, please. 7509 ✉

Blue-Eyed Baby Boomer—Slim, pretty, creative, intellectual - seeks nonsmoking, single man, 45-60, for companionship, affection and fun. 7439 ✉☎

Fun Male—49, 5'9", attorney, sense of humor, romantic, seeks bright, vibrant lady for long-term relationship. Photo, please. 7537 ✉

Quick-Witted—Youngish 50, Jewish, fit, tall, handsome Manhattan executive seeks passionate, attractive, creative woman to share our lust for life. Note/photo. 7527 ✉

Affluent And Handsome—Indian CEO, 48 (looks 38), seeks pretty and intelligent female, 28-48. Photo and phone. 7483 ✉

Metro Man—Professional, early 60s, 5'10", slim. Seeks trim, pretty professional woman to share NYC theater and dining experience. Note/photo. 7575 ✉

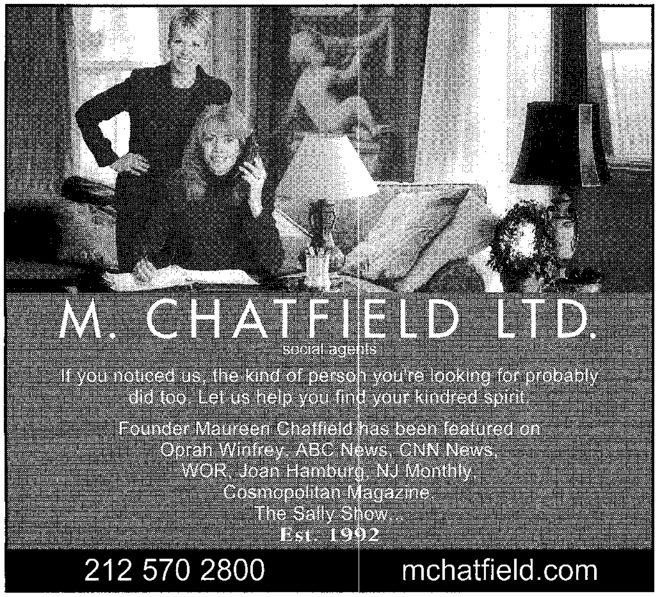
Immediately Likable—With what people call "movie star good looks" and great dimples. Slim, youthful Jewish widow. Great raconteur; disarming wit and a supply of good jokes. Passionate about reading; work bookshop part-time for fun. Dynamic, warm, giving, comfortable with myself - not carrying excess baggage but ready to see more of Italy/France. Love theater, smooth jazz, gardens, dogs, working out. Bake great biscotti. Taking opera class, but not convinced. Very interested in people. Seeking nonsmoking man, secure with himself, 60s-70s, with warm, caring heart. Bb@latoile.com 7605 ✉☎

Mister Mom—Divorced, 48, attractive, successful, funny, honest, caring, seeks female closer to my age, to share the better things. Note/photo, please. 7523✉

I Belong On A Milk Carton—Because I am "missing" someone special to enjoy life with. Male lawyer, 47, Jewish, seeks female, 30-45, for relationship. 7429✉☎

Successful Single Male—36, intelligent, physically fit, athletic, good sense of humor. Seeks college-educated, bright, slim, easygoing white female. 7526 ✉☎

Very Pretty—Slim brunette, counselor, 37, Jewish, seeks handsome, warm, fun professional for future. Photo. 7549✉☎



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Creative, Good-Looking Woman—Who enjoys theater, arts, travel to faraway places, spring breezes and squeezes, seeks secure, savvy, fit, emotionally generous family man (tall, 60-68), to share laughter and love. Note/photo/phone. 7477 ✉

Very Nice Jewish PhD—53, with charm, humor, passion, character, integrity - seeks one special (smart/sexy/warm/classy) Jewish woman. Photo. 7562 ✉

Absolutely Stunning—But much more, too: independent, sensual, funny (sure to make you laugh), with a sense of whimsy and rebellious streak. Long-legged, slender, graceful, divorced woman, 49. Accomplished entrepreneur. Vivacious, generous, candid, real. Penetrating green eyes. Gravitates to: adventure vacations, good theater, blockbuster exhibitions, US Open, Maine, hiking. Game for most things. Plays tennis, sails. Seeking fun relationship (maybe more) with athletic/physical, nonsmoking, 5'9" plus, attractive man who values spontaneity and authenticity, 45-55. Njmaine@aol.com 7606✉☎

Happy And Successful—Guy, 54, with great upscale lifestyle, very youthful and fit mentally and physically, desires buxom (not fat) girl/woman. 7486 ✉☎

Success-Driven Professional—38, 5'7", 165 lbs, eclectic, fun-loving, possessing self-knowledge, with family values. Seeks relationship with an attractive lady of same attributes. 7565 ✉

Oriental Male Senior Sought—By this upscale blond female, senior professional. The best of qualities. 7524 ✉☎

Gay NJ Female—45, white, professional, authentic, athletic, artistic, attractive. Seeking a normal, regular, real, committed relationship with someone special. Is anybody out there? Photo. 7599 ✉

Colorful Artist/Professor—48, 5'5", feminine, funny and fit, adventurous spirit, pretty, with long auburn hair, seeks creative, compassionate, communicative, health-conscious, worldly man, 45-60, to share love of travel, nature, the arts and laughter. 7436 ✉☎

I'd Like To See You—Friendly, professional, single Jewish female, 37, never married, slim, attractive, 5'4", brown eyed brunette with a warm heart and kind nature. Enjoys movies, theater, exercising, beaches, comedy, dancing and more. Seeks an easygoing, sincere, intelligent, single Jewish male, nonsmoker, 35-45, to hold close forever. 7519 ✉☎

Marriage-Minded, Single White Male—Corporation lawyer, well-educated (Brown, Yale, Harvard, Juilliard), attractive, fit, financially independent, seeks trim, warmhearted Asian/Caucasian female who enjoys children, classical music, country life. Photo. 7534 ✉

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Sophisticated, Shapely, Gentle—Terrific athlete, excellent physical shape, very attractive, well-educated, cultured, well-traveled, stylish, tall Jewish lady - seeking kind, cosmopolitan, successful gentleman, 45-57. 4.0 tennis player/avid skier is a plus. Honesty/sincerity/kindness is your real advantage. 7442✉☎

Are You The Kind Of Man—Who won't settle for anything less than what you really want? Are you looking for a woman with the same commitment? I'm very attractive, 5'7", blond with blue-green eyes and in good shape. A 52-year-old, fun-loving, divorced professional and secure single mom with a wonderful little girl... Looks, inner strength, security and generosity are a must. If you possess these qualities, I'd love to hear from you. Photo and note required. 7515 ✉☎

Handsome Single White Gentleman—37, seeking attractive, older Russian or Ukrainian lady, 47-62. 7488 ✉

Beautiful, Shapely Korean—30s, very attractive, cultured, smart, fun - great legs and smile. Seeks classy, handsome, generous white male, 35-49, for serious relationship. Photo. 7574 ✉

Male DDS—Slim, 5'7", 65, likes arts, etc. Seeks slim, attractive woman with a good sense of humor. Photo. 7428 ✉☎

Prominent, Prestigious—Distinguished gentleman of substance wanted by 5'4", 135, woman of substance, counterpart. Late 40s-early 50s. 7568 ✉☎

My Best Of NY:—Piazza, the Knicks, Ray's pizza, movie-shows, Sunday Times, comedy clubs, walks in Central Park, Letterman tapings, Fairway and me - a thirty-something, single, tall mensch CEO looking for my best friend-mate to share it all with. Photo/note. 7569 ✉☎ THEBESTOFNY2001@aol.com

Classy NJ Lady—Unpretentious, active, health-conscious, smart, funny, kind and passionate. Seeks similarly energetic mensch, 55-68, with adventurous attitude, dancing shoes and a great sense of humor. 7573✉ chickiepie2@yahoo.com

Pretty, Spirited, Spiritual—Warm, loving, accomplished Jewish professional, very youthful 54, 5'6", fit, active, happy, filled with joie de vivre. Seeks Jewish soulmate to share love of family, friends, travel and whatever together. 7430 ✉☎

I Want A Man—5'10" plus, relatively fit, to accompany me to museums on Friday and Saturday, dinner and other activities for weekends...perhaps go away in spring and summer. I am a 5'10", attractive redhead, 55 - and if you don't want to be physical with me, it is not a requirement. Likewise, I don't have to be physical with you. I have to enjoy you and you me. I do need enjoyment and a joyous companion - even if you are a bit moody sometimes. 7612 ✉

One-Of-A-Kind—Petite, pretty French and Italian female seeks male, 45-55. Photo a must. 7431 ✉☎

Eye-Catching, Slender Good Looks—Tall, striking blond, 40-something, great sense of style, long legs, real presence. Upscale, sophisticated and down-to-earth. No time for pretension. Successful and fun Wall Street professional - makes television appearances. Independent, spirited, appealing style. Favorites: St. Barts, the Sopranos, white Burgundies, off-Broadway, hiking France, running in Central Park. Seeking educated, attractive man - tall, active, successful professional, 46-58, who can laugh, doesn't take himself too seriously. norsk.turid@verizon.net 7608 ✉☎

Octogenarian, Member Mensa—Colonial Dames, seeks age-appropriate significant other. 7566 ✉

Male Psychologist—NYC/Florida, seeks lady friend. Short bio appreciated. 7546✉

Adorable Asian Beauty—Ivy grad, youthful 30s, vibrant, fit, slender, petite, seeks marriage-minded, bright, handsome, fit, well-educated, accomplished, upbeat male, 33-45, nonsmoker. Photo. 7587 ✉

Handsome Entrepreneur—Romantic and fun Jewish man, 38, 5'11", with green eyes, very fit and successful, seeks an attractive Jewish woman. Please be in shape and 27-35. Photo. 7580 ✉☎

Long-Term Relationship—Good-looking, 6'1", 180 lbs, dark hair, light hazel eyes, Jewish male, seeks 35-40, pretty, slim, well-balanced female. Photo a must. 7548✉

Very Cute Computer Nerd—Jewish female, 30s, petite, slim, dark blond, hazel eyes, seeks white, marriage-minded, educated male, 34-42, cute, smart, funny, easygoing and upbeat. Note/photo. 7586✉

Vibrant, Attractive Female Exec—With eyes of blue and heart of gold... slender, articulate, fun, Jewish, single, 41, 5'4". Seeks a warm, accomplished, professional Jewish male with integrity, 40-50, to share now-forever. 7437 ✉☎

Slim, Attractive Blond—5'5", 105, 50s, looks 40s, highly intelligent, warm, sensitive, traditional values, desires handsome, fit, refined gentleman who is successful, kind, well-traveled and enjoys the finer things in life. 7446 ✉☎

Blue-Eyed, Pretty Woman—Loves city sophistication and country simplicity. Let's explore together. I'm 5'4", trim, curvy, young mid-50s professional. Want emotionally secure, attractive match. 7551✉☎

Intelligent, Successful—Handsome man seeks lovely, intelligent woman for friendship, romance, possible long-term relationship. Retired, 59, healthy, passionate, generous. Likes family, music, golf, reading, movies, theater, tennis. Picture appreciated. 7492 ✉☎

Asian Admirer—Handsome Jewish MD, 6'1", 180 lbs, with interests in sports, politics and music. Seeks Asian female, late 20s-40, *American or foreign-born*, who is nice, smart and attractive. A serious interest in music - as an avocation or profession - would be a big plus. Photo, please. 7536 ✉☎

Winsome Westchester Widow—Looking for new relationship with cultured gentleman, 65-75, someone with a sense of humor, interested in travel, the arts and golf, who is also looking for an attractive, energetic soul mate. 7533 ✉

Down-To-Earth—Intelligent, attractive, caring female, 27, seeking successful, down to earth male for best friend and life partner. 7470 ✉

Athletic, Accomplished PhD—Tall, white male, 50s, seeks extremely discriminating Asian/Caucasian lady for serious long-term relationship. franklee4501@aol.com 7531 ✉☎

Pretty, Loving Widow—Needs a loving widower, 65-75. Let's make the last the best. Education and humor helps. 7501 ✉

Attention All Women—Suburbs and city: If you're caring, affectionate, cute, 22-37, nonsmoker, you're wanted by this man - supportive, successful sportswriter, 40 and Jewish. All religions, races and nationalities welcome. Photo. 7603✉☎

Join Me For Shabbat Dinner—This week and forever. Conservadox beautiful JD, 37. You are a professional, 38-48. 7463 ✉☎

Loving, Supportive, Sincere Male, 64—PhD, seeks sweet, educated, artistic lady. Travel, arts, fun. Photo, please. 7495 ✉

Down-To-Earth Heiress—Seeks Irish or Jewish MD or tycoon, 38-45. 7581 ✉☎

Loving Beauty—Auburn/green, curves, slender, 43, 5'5", Jewish, degrees, fiery, tender - enjoys art, stage, wit, fun, grace. Sensual cook in jeans/lace. Be handsome, fit male success, a contender. 7530 ✉☎

Astute, Tall And Nice-Looking—Charming, slim, successful white professional, 41, seeks an exceptional European/Asian woman who can lure me to settle. I'm prickly, but will offer much joy if we connect. Photo appreciated (or e-mail: aspiring01@hotmail). 7592 ✉

Japanese Lady, 46—Seeks white male, 40s. Enjoys music, theater. 7473 ✉☎

Seeks Marriage And Family—6'4", *handsome (really), slim, very athletic*, successful Jewish attorney, 52, many interests, easygoing, happy, fulfilled - except I do not have an educated, warm, pretty, slim lady, 35-40, for all that life has to offer. Photo; will reciprocate. 7579✉

5'7", Long Dark Hair—Slim, pretty Jewish dentist, 30, cultured but down-to-earth, seeks successful, sensitive man, 29-37, for happily ever after. 7476 ✉☎

Meant To Meet—Very young 50, good looks, creative, financially and emotionally secure man - seeks fine life with very attractive, feminine, warm woman of substance, 35-49. Photo/note, please. 7559 ✉

Handsome, Successful Physician—44, kosher, seeking a warm, bright, classy and attractive woman, 30-37, with traditional Jewish values, for a meaningful and loving relationship leading to marriage and our own family. Photo, please. 7496 ✉☎

Let's Rally—This cool, calm gal wants to play tennis with a 49ish mensch. 7512 ✉☎

Easygoing, Funny, Perceptive—Handsome, athletic, sensual, professional Jewish man, 39, seeking terrific woman. Many interests and activities. Let's enrich each other's lives and enjoy life to the fullest. Note/photo appreciated. NY/NJ. 7479 ✉

Seeking Widower, Over 70—Tall, sophisticated gentleman, kind, successful, cultured, well-educated, to be a good friend and travel companion. I'm a sophisticated widow, good background, successful. 7582 ✉

Extraordinary, Very Handsome—Magnanimous, sophisticated, witty, fun-loving, romantic, sensitive, athletic, successful, well-dressed (GQ-type) white male, lawyer, 58 (looks 40) - seeks female counterpart. Let's share a wonderful life. Photo, please. 7517 ✉

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Stunning, Tall Hungarian Beauty—In her 30s, seeks tall, nonsmoking, emotionally/physically fit, financially secure gentleman, 35-45, for serious relationship. Sense of humor and love of animals are a must, please. Send photo/note. 7604 ✉

Stunning, Sophisticated, Smart, Sexy—Jewish female, divorced, 5'5", curvy size 6, affluent, world traveler, investor, golfer, country clubs here and FL, seeks attractive man, 60-72, with upscale lifestyle. Note and photo a must. 7584 ✉☎

Manhattan, Handsome Retired Lawyer—6', 175 lbs, enjoys humor, racquetball, singing, telling jokes, reading, history, current events, liberalism, justice, British humor and good nutrition; imaginative, gentle, affectionate, 70ish. Seeks slim, 60ish, humorous, gentle woman, 5'5"-5'8". Photo/note. 7560 ✉

Brooklyn—Retired professor, tall, slim, affluent, Irish, reads much in large Victorian beach house (near subway), visits DC. Seeks 50-plus, retired lady health buff. 7571 ✉

Pretty, Petite MD—Very attractive, young-looking 50, Bangladesh-born, kind, warm, loving, romantic, slim, fit, sincere, professionally and financially established - enjoy reading, poetry, nature, conversation, travel, movies. Seeking a man of equal caliber, up to age 56, nonsmoker, handsome, big heart, liberal mind, marriage minded, emotionally/physically healthy, with great personality, for a romantic, happy life together. Note/phone/recent photo needed for reply, please. 7594 ✉

Homebody—Likes to cook, drink wine, read, opera, Mets. Nonreligious Jewish professional male, 53, smoker, good listener, desires thin female, 40-50, who feels what is inside you is more important than what you have. Note/photo. 7516✉☎

I Have Good Values And A Kind Heart—Very attractive and bright, warm and caring, down-to-earth, professional Asian female, never-married, looking for a sincere, kind, educated and successful gentleman, 37-47, for commitment and family. Photo/note. 7543 ✉

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NYMESSAGE

Italian-Born Lady—Tall, nice-looking, divorced, early 60s - likes music, arts, dance. Lives on Upper East Side. Seeks real friends, same age group, to enjoy Manhattan entertainment and everything good that life can offer. 7502 ✉

"Tupelo Honey"—35, blond, 5'7", curvy size 4, Irish beauty, vivacious, fun, witty, caring. Love my Levi's and boots. NYC-raised woman seeks handsome, healthy, funny, caring, self-made man who enjoys boats, Harleys, Sinatra to the Allman Brothers, waterskiing, hockey, baseball, fishing, family and friends. Must be sincere, romantic and hoping to meet the right girl to start a family and share the rest of his life with. Photo and phone a must for a response. 7597 ✉☎

Good-Looking Jewish Male—59, divorced, with diverse interests, is seeking a woman for a lasting permanent relationship. Photo a must. 7499 ✉

Empty Nest?—Englishman, mid 70s, semi-retired but active, seeks companion. Nonsmoker/-drinker/-dance. Good man-about-house and -car. 7514 ✉☎

Here's One Long-Term Investment—That isn't affected by market fluctuations! Warm, emotionally generous, romantic, affectionate and fit, 33-year-old white male looking to connect with a special woman who will complement my qualities and with whom I can learn and grow. I'm looking for an intelligent, attractive, sensitive, affectionate, nonsmoking woman, 25-35, who loves to laugh and find humor in almost any situation. Bergen County and Manhattan only. E-mail: swm33nj@hotmail.com 7570✉☎

Witty, Honest, Attractive—5'10", fit, brown hair/eyes, 45, seeks thin woman, 27-45. dennisv2005@aol.com 7601✉

Attractive, Upscale Westchesterite—49, seeks quality, successful gent for caring and sharing. (203)/(914) only. 7504✉☎

You And I Forever—Handsome, successful, blue-eyed businessman, early 40s, dark hair, 6', 178, in great shape. Seeks one attractive, classy, fit, Catholic/Christian woman under 40, for fun, romance...and possibly marriage, children, white picket fence. Recent photo/letter/phone. 7475 ✉

Widow, San Francisco Area—Unusual, offbeat, soft, attractive. Formerly a university professor, now writer and serious hedonist. Seeks 63-plus Prince Charming to dance through the tulips together and share great romance. Seeking gentleman for all seasons with great sense of humor, in need of mental and physical touching. I am like the girl next-door who is now all grown-up. 7425✉☎

Man For All Reasons—I'm 5'9", 170 solid lbs, 40 years old, tanned complexion, hazel eyes. I've been called stunning. I'm well-educated and have a successful business; love tennis, sailing, dancing, opera, etc. I'm looking for a beautiful, shapely, accomplished woman - MD, PhD or similar - to search for shooting stars on romantic nights. Photo/note. 7578 ✉☎

Pretty, Smart, Sweet—Sincere heart of gold. Seeks same in attractive, caring, professional Jewish man, 52-62. 7602 ✉☎

Exquisite Beauty—Class, Ivy MA, sexy, great figure, affluent, strong values, fun, seeks same in man, 47 plus. Photo. 7538✉

Hello Kindred Soul!—Sweet, slim, fit, earthy, funny, creative, family-minded, scintillating blond beauty seeks appealing good guy, 35-46. Kids? Okay! religion open. Romantanon@aol.com. 7577 ✉☎

Shining Star—33, 5'3", dazzling smile, sparkling personality, down-to-earth, fit brunette beauty has it all going on...minus a 30-40, unconventional, wild, witty and ambitious guy with good looks and charm, 5'8" plus. Note/photo, please. 7550✉☎

Romantic, Handsome CEO—46, 6', seeks lady, 30-47, with beauty, brains and a warm heart. Photo, please. 7539 ✉☎

Insightful, Attractive, Caring, Funny—44-year-old guy with progressive conservative values, seeking lively and thoughtful lady for meaningful relationship. 7508 ✉☎

Seeking Special Man—Very attractive, professional, slim, warm, fun-loving and grounded female - enjoys travel, people, pets, movies, theater, dining out. Seeks Manhattan male counterpart, 46-58, emotionally available and financially secure, for lasting relationship. Photo. 7576 ✉☎

Attractive, Very Successful Male—Jewish, 83 years young. Enjoys golf, stock market, world cruises and elegant dining. Divides time between Florida and NYC homes. Seeks slim, pretty female companion, 60-75 years old, who is caring and has good personality, with sense of humor and style. Current photo and letter, please. 7474 ✉

Warm Blond Beauty—Editor, 42, Catholic, seeks secure mate. 7491 ✉

Petite Blond—Jewish, 30s, in fashion, looking for mega-successful CEO type for marriage - Jewish, fit and at least 5'10", must be successful and fun-loving - for world travel, Hamptons and romantic dinners...and happily ever after. Photo a must. 7441 ✉☎

You're A Widower—You're anywhere from 55-70. You probably have children you adore and a career you loved or still love. Your interests are wide and varied. You also had a great marriage and you miss your wife, but now you're ready to meet another woman. She can't ever take your wife's place, but she will be fun, a companion, a friend. She will be smart, sharing, caring and, above all, someone you can count on. She will be...me. 7507 ✉☎

Cover Girl Looks, Sweet Disposition!—Striking brunette, long-legged, slender, captivating blue eyes, feminine and sexy, exudes kindness, sincerity and compassion, creative. Loves trying new things. Enjoys off-Broadway, foreign films, secluded beaches, travel, working out. Seeking articulate, very attractive man, tall, in-shape, extremely successful, 35-49, for eternal lasting love. Photo a must. 7472 ✉

Are You Out There?—Nice-looking, gay white Jewish male, smart, talented, funny, Europhile, and more straight than gay - seeks 30something guy with similar qualities to take me someplace I've never been. Drop me a line at: 7545 ✉☎ or: nymagad@yahoo.com

Pretty, Gay, Feminine—40s, sensual, successful professional. Seeks financially solid, educated, cultured woman friend, etc. 2penn@excite.com 7610 ✉☎

Spiritual, Sensual—Slender brunette, 52, 5'5", literate, adventurous, eclectic interests. Seeks bright, attractive mensch to share love, deep friendship. 7552✉☎

Pretty, Petite, Vibrant—Jewish professional, 42, with a big heart and warm smile, seeks a generous, caring, professional, humorous Jewish male, 40-50, who is family-minded - for the long term. Photo/note, please. 7553 ✉

Unique Millionaire—Self-made, street-smart entrepreneur - intelligent, ambitious, 59 going on 39, 6'3", 230, seeks sexy soul mate - real woman with a great figure, 30-45. Photo. 7435 ✉☎

Attractive, Sophisticated—Adventurous widow seeks male, 50-60, with sense of humor and zest for life. 7451 ✉☎

Pretty, NJ Prep-Schooled Sweetie—Shapely, wholesome, divorced Jewish female, late 40s, petite, with Master's degree. Enjoys golf, tennis, cooking, cuddling, show tunes and nurturing a relationship. Seeking Jewish male, established, easygoing, kind heart, and ready for loving, loyal life together. Letter/photo/phone, please. 7567 ✉ ☎

South FL Bound—Tall, very handsome, Jewish, athletic male, financially secure, 53, with a sense of humor, seeks sophisticated woman, 37-44, with similar qualities. 7423 ✉☎

Low-Key Professional Man—Jewish, 60s, fit, seeks youngish Jersey lady, tall, brainy, physically strong, robust. 7513✉☎

April Days Can Bring Flowers—If you're a bright, affectionate, youthful-looking, soft-spoken, northern Jersey or NYC female, 40-50, who enjoys movies, Broadway, travel, romancing. Successful, easygoing professional guy, a young 55, awaits your recent photo/note. 7440✉☎

Sexy, Charming Blond—Emotionally and financially secure, seeks male counterpart, 43-60, to share life's best together. Charmedgardenia@aol.com 7522 ✉☎

Tall, Handsome Doctor—6'2", very fit/slim, 41 (looks much younger), never-married (no kids), self-made and financially/emotionally secure. Considered very responsible, generous, passionate, communicative and spiritual. Seeking one very beautiful, well-bred, very slim/sensuous, chic woman (to 35), searching for the love of her life. Recent photo/note. 7583 ✉

A Delicious, Special Lady—Shapely, sexy and smart, is awaiting a man who needs to be loved and nurtured. If you are between 65-75, attractive, kind and economically secure, this lovely package awaits you. 7494 ✉ ☎

Adventurous Explorer's Spirit—Appealingly attractive, good-hearted brunette. Passionate, positive, personable. Fit, 5'8", divorced. TV producer turned financial professional, occasional caterer with real travel bug - shines at Trivial Pursuit geography questions. Grew up sailing, loves fishing. Known for good sense of humor and fun. Loves sporting events (basketball, US Open), Tanglewood, Block Island, blue herons, gardening, dogs, sailing Mediterranean, Bruges, good books. Seeks caring, verbal, financially sound professional man, 46-60, 5'9" plus. Kodiak11@hotmail.com 7447 ✉☎

Attractive Professional—Jewish mother, mid 50s, down-to-earth, energetic - enjoys the arts, outdoors, baseball, politics, time with terrific son (9). Seeking romantic, caring, long-term relationship. 7485 ✉☎

Looking For A Man, 60-70—Who appreciates class, brains and joie de vivre. You'll find that special lady in this petite redhead - lover of arts with a great sense of humor. Photo/note. 7511 ✉

Mensch/67—Seeks wit/fit, keen/political Ms. POB 171/10028. wschmerz@aol.com

Starry Summer Nights—To share with blond, attractive, down-to-earth, spirited attorney, 39. Seeks quick-witted man of integrity, who knows how to live well, laugh often, love much. Photo. 7572 ✉

Asian-American Dream Girl—5'6", 29, 110, seeks dynamic, spiritual gentleman of distinction. Photo, please. 7510 ✉ windwalker@inorbit.com

Tall, Fit, Handsome Professional—Hard-working entrepreneur, but still has time for play and romance. Interests include art, movies, theater, adventurous travel and ballroom dancing. Prior marriage; college-age daughter. Seeks bright, attractive female companion, 30s-40s, tall, shapely, good solid values and warm heart, for relationship, possibly marriage. Hopefully likes dancing or willing to learn. Let's dance this summer under the stars. Photo/note/phone. 7596 ✉

Black And White—IT professional, black female doctoral candidate - seeks white male of good character. 7598 ✉☎

Top Quality—Blue-eyed Scandinavian blond, terrific figure, very good-looking, slim and stylish. A stunner in jeans. Divorced. Lifelong learner - can talk investments to gardening to science to the highway and byways of life. Small-town roots, gravitates to cities. Financially secure professional. Loves laughter, good anecdotes, movies, nonfiction, walking/hiking. Easygoing, cultivated, caring, people-person. Fabulous traveler, a whiz at reading maps. Values the golden rule. Seeks smart, confident, warm, verbal, active man, 45-67, ready to appreciate a wonderful, loving, dynamic woman. sue@activewoman.com 7607 ✉☎

Slender, Sexy, Smart, Spontaneous—Adventurous, athletic, happy, honest, easygoing, world traveled and cultured. I have enjoyed 39 years of single life. Enjoy city life, beach and the country, boating, skiing and more. Professional and financially secure, accomplished and fulfilled, except for lasting love. Seek Prince Charming for love, laughs, best friend and family. Life will never be boring! 7498 ✉☎

Pretty Lady Engineer—From NJ, works in NYC, 42, slim, curvy figure, 5'6", long red hair, sincere, classy, seeks Jewish professional male over 40, for a lasting relationship. 7482 ✉

A Nice Package—Upbeat, affectionate, successful Jewish man, 38, live in North Shore Nassau County. Handsome, muscular golfer with a sense of humor and a zest for life, seeking career-oriented, fit, attractive, sensual woman, 35-47. You have a sense of humor to match mine. Animal lover and nonsmoker. Note/photo/phone. 7525 ✉☎

Classy, Curvaceous—Extremely attractive (truth!), extremely modest Jewish female, 5'6", long auburn hair, violet eyes, seeks kind, classy, sophisticated male, 5'10" plus, 40 plus, to enjoy the best of NY and each other. 7444 ✉☎

Gay Woman, 54—Professional, feminine, seeks romantic friendship with Princess Charming to share laughter and love. Photo a plus. 7506 ✉

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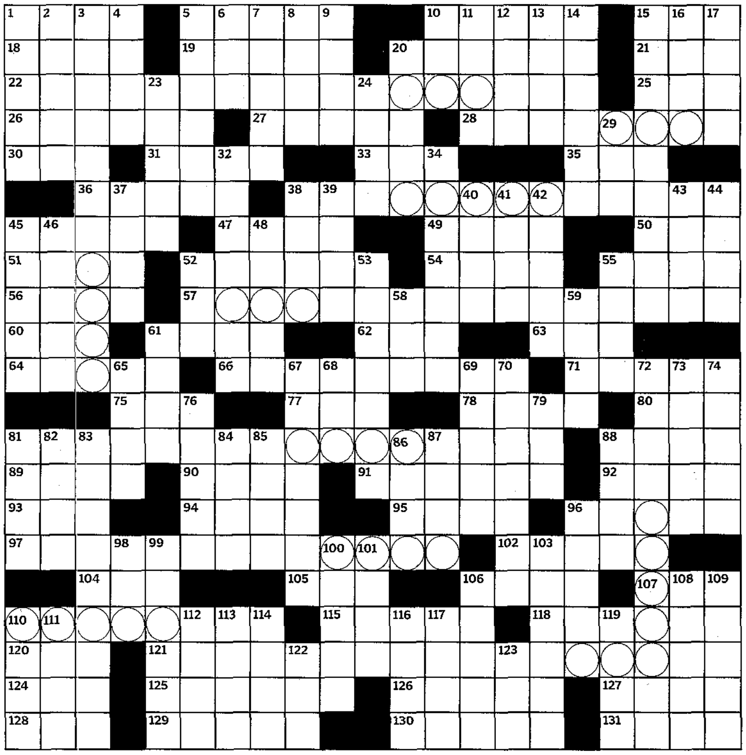
'Wear It Is'

'Cue' Crossword by Maura B. Jacobson



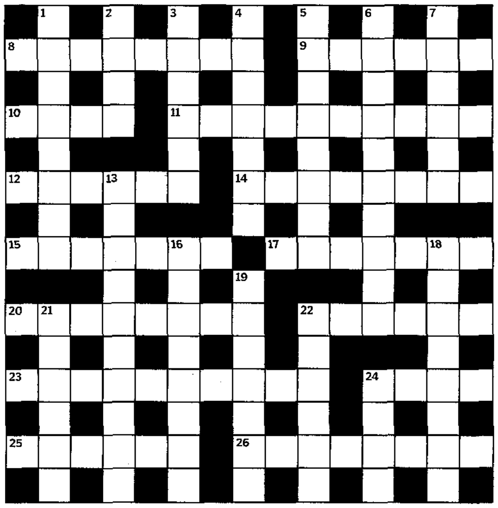
ACROSS

1 Drops behind
5 Tortilla-chip dip
10 Schwarzenegger's barbarian
15 Wok
18 Beige
19 Choose for parenting
20 Texas city on the Rio Grande
21 "We —— the World"
22 Peck-Olivier film, 1978
25 Slangy refusal
26 Paltry
27 Laid-back personality classification
28 Hitchcock shipwreck film, 1944
30 Part of i.e.
31 Adult elvers
33 Cash or croup follower
35 —— Lingus
36 Do a blackboard chore
38 All-star 1976 film
45 Germany's Pittsburgh
47 Opposed, hillbilly style
49 Wing it alone
50 "O Sole ——"
51 Alençon product
52 Immediately
54 Australia's national bird: var.
55 Cans
56 Kind of hygiene
57 Woody Allen's first film as actor-writer, 1965
60 Baby food
61 All-purpose vehicle
62 One of the Tweedles
63 Boathouse item
64 Spaniard's January
66 Comeback to a reply
71 Faithful
75 Stomach muscles, informally
77 Stagecoach stop
78 Capitol Hill go-fer
80 Miner's quest
81 Beery-Stanwyck film, 1936
88 Give the bum's rush
89 Theda Bara's image
90 Senate Majority Leader since 1996
91 Hair nets
92 Shoelace annoyance
93 Hurricane center
94 Tivoli's Villa d'——
95 Racetrack board
96 Inks a contract
97 1942 film from a James Hilton novel
102 Ward off
104 Phone-button 3
105 "Are we there ——?"
106 Exxon, formerly
107 Unlock, to Keats
110 1983 update of a 1932 film
115 Entire range
118 Globe-trot
120 Tennis "moon ball"
121 Oscar film of 1996
124 Nothing's alternative
125 Goal-scoring shout
126 Piggish nose
127 First James Bond film
128 Memorable West
129 Salts or Downs
130 Esthetic judgment
131 Org.

DOWN

1 "—— Entertain You" ("Gypsy" tune)
2 Tooth woes
3 1963 film with an international cast, with "The"
4 U-boats
5 Give verbal approval
6 Commercials
7 Some TriBeCa apartments
8 Agile
9 Lying upon
10 Hue: abbr.
11 Milky gem
12 Hitlerite
13 In a manner like
14 79-Down choice
15 Having a view in all directions
16 Diva's big moment
17 Waiting-room call
20 Receded gradually
23 New York city on the Allegheny
24 Israel's Golda
29 Nectar collector
32 Result of tanning hides
34 Stitched over
37 Virginia dance
38 Julep flavoring
39 Cousins' dads, for short
40 Frolic
41 After sacre, in a French oath
42 "I told ——!"
43 Sinatra daughter
44 Guests' welcomer
45 Marry on the Q.T.
46 See-through wrap
48 Freak out
52 More than impress
53 Suffixes
55 Rookie
58 Poetic nightfall
59 Shopper's bonanza
61 Employment-agency offerings
65 Sound hoarse
67 Nervous
68 Yoko's maiden name
69 Disney "futureland"
70 Oakland footballers
72 1964 Peter Fonda film, with "The"
73 Torch's crime
74 Latvians
76 Oregon's capital
79 Car fill-up
81 Assert
82 Author Angelou
83 Fit for editing
84 Golly!
85 Sundance Kid's girl
86 Picnic pests
87 Edible part of a radish
88 Dust Bowl refugee
96 Athletic activity
98 The, in Thüringen
99 —— cuff (extemporaneously)
100 Salad green, familiarly
101 Kin of etc.
103 Will subject
106 Traits of a culture
108 Sean and William
109 Princess Di's hymnist John
110 Ambitious bridge bid
111 Cuba libre ingredient
112 With ——, a skip, and a jump
113 Corp. V.I.P.'s
114 Younger Saarinen
116 Light fog
117 Abbr. at Annapolis
119 Role for Leontyne
122 Saigon's land, to G.I.'s
123 "—— on a Happy Face"

The 'Guardian' Crossword Set by Fidelio



ACROSS

8 Kind of honorary uncle comes to mid-day meal. (8)
9 Refuse to be in a pen, say. (6)
10 Some parakeets eat this fruit. (4)
11 Product of those who say cheese. (10)
12 Killer Walt lacks capital. (3–3)
14 Pieces of board. (8)
15 "Everyone's available," said a girl. (7)
17 Gentleman opponents on paper. (7)
20 Ships float at sea keeping in one long line. (8)
22 Grand, but I'm not pretending. (6)
23 Insecticide for the capital lawn. (5,5)
24 Slipped one is to be found in the Washington area. (4)
25 French city gets hot? (6)
26 Side changer will need gear adjustment. (8)

DOWN

1 Bill follows Bob to get the egg layer. (8)
2 The current ambassador is a pain. (4)
3 You and I have a pinhead on arm. (6)
4 Bill can sing? (7)
5 Flora, these are wrong. (8)
6 Old fliers exercise arousers, perhaps. (10)
7 Letters for an Indian residence. (6)
13 He believes in Tirana mine explosion. (10)
16 Animal student does not start as a nest raider. (8)
18 Circle and face offer an uninterrupted view. (8)
19 Desert troops came to long lines. (7)
21 King, not specified, gains knowledge. (6)
22 Write a no good name for George Town. (6)
24 Where an out-of-town archaeologist is to be found? (4)

Solutions to last week's puzzles appear on page 200.

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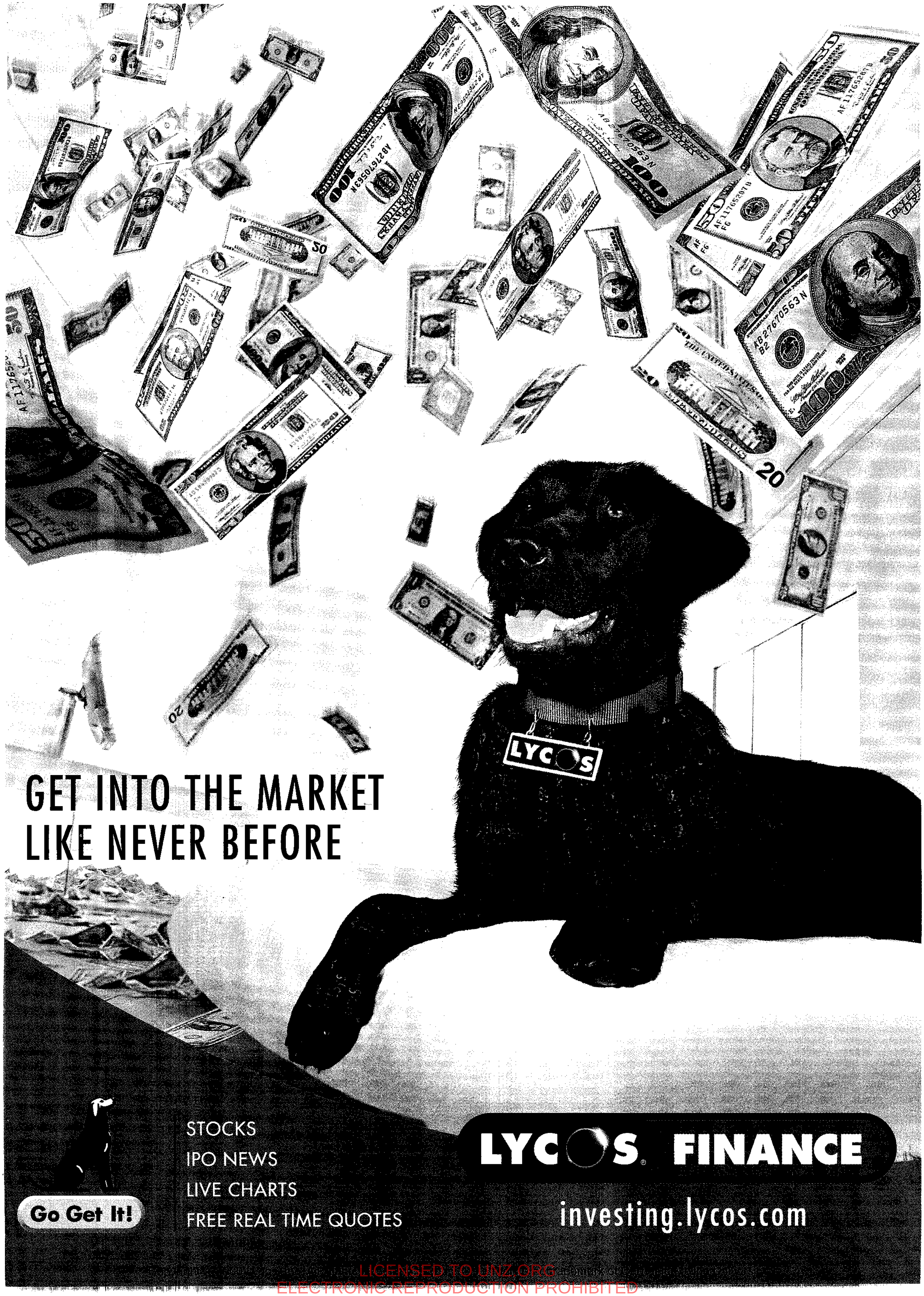
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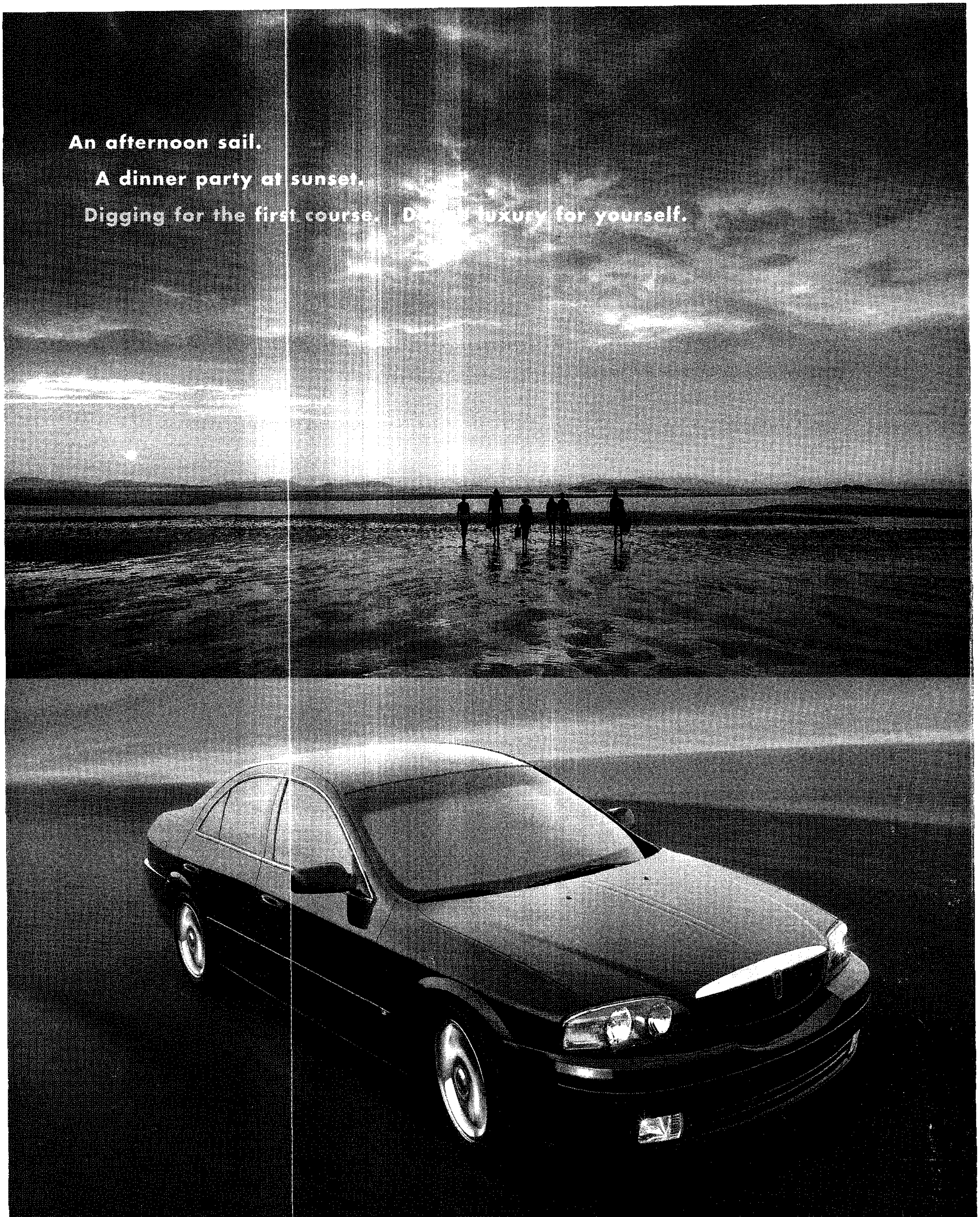
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